

## All Saints Bible Study – October 31, 2008

We read the whole sweep of **Luke 11:14 through to Luke 13:35**. We then cut up a print out of the text and grouped the passages.

The **two themes** that were dominant were:

- the importance of getting right our fundamental relationship with God
- judgement.

We need to start with getting our **fundamental relationship** with God right. Referring back to 10:25-28 where Jesus endorses the fundamentals of **loving God, loving ourselves** and **loving our neighbour**, we added

- Seek his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well (12:31)
- When your eyes are good your whole body is filled with light (11:34)
- Give what is inside the dish to the poor and everything will be clean for you (11:41)
- Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it (11:28)
- (you Pharisees fuss about tiny things but) You neglect justice and the love of God (11:42)
- Where your treasure is there your heart will be also (12:34)

As in 'He who is least among you all is the greatest'(10:48), what is **important in God's kingdom** is not necessarily what is exalted in society –

- Those who are last will be first and those who are first will be last (13:29-30)

Those **entrusted with this knowledge** are required to share it:

- From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (12:49b)
- Witness Jesus distress at the Pharisees is because they were entrusted with the knowledge but have perverted it

We cannot be in two minds about this **relationship**:

- A kingdom divided against itself will not stand as discussed in the Beelzebub miracle (11:14-26)

There is a **division**:

- Whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me (9:48)
- He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me. (10:16)
- I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. (11:23)
- He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.(12:9)
- Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. (12:51)

And there is **judgement**:

- This is a wicked generation (11:29) The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it (11:32)
- Woe to you Pharisees: this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah (11:50-51)
- Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell (12:5)
- But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. (12:9)
- Anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.(12:10)

- But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.(12:20-21)
- [The master will cut the unfaithful servant] to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.(12:46)
- But unless you repent, you too will all perish (13:3)
- 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'(13:27)
- "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.(13:28)

But there is **compassion**:

- Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! (13:34)

Whilst we would like to do away with judgement, we cannot do so without discarding much of the text!