**The Gospel of Luke**

**Witness to the Gentiles - #32**

**Light of the Lampstand, Woes of Pharisees and Lawyers**

**Luke 11:33-36, 37-54**

**Luke 11:33-36 – The Clear Undivided Vision**

***33*** *No man, when he has lighted a lamp, puts it away in a cellar, neither under the bushel, but on the stand, that they which enter in may see the light.* [***34***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-34.htm) *The lamp of thy body is your eye: when your eye is single (clear sighted), your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.*

***35*** *Look therefore whether the light that is in you be not darkness.* ***36*** *If therefore your whole body be full of light, having no part dark, it shall be wholly full of light, as when the lamp with its bright shining shines on you with its light.*

**Notes and studies**

1. Luke 11:33 to the end of the chapter is about how we see and how we perceive. A person whose eyes are good can see well, but this vision is undivided vision, not distracted and the work. “Simple” or “single” is a good word for seeing one thing at a time undistracted.
2. The Greek word ***kyrpte*** means “cellar or a hiding place” which is well known in Hellenistic buildings more than in the Palestinian.
3. Light reveals to us what we see but the eye must be able to see.
4. The body is whole, the Greek work ***soma*** here, as in Romans 12:1, means the human person who can move and work because his vision is undistracted.

**A Letter from Philemon**

**The divided inner vision**

Brother George,

May the Lord who granted us his eternal peace makes his dwelling in your heart eternal and that his peace may be always in you.

We are living in a fallen World where the seeds of redemption have been given to us all. That is the Gift of the Holy Spirit who works in us to reconcile all round us and rescue the captive of evil and lead them to the freedom of the children of God which we have and which we share with them.

The divided World can invade our hearts even here in the Monastery. The World runs its systems on power, wars, subjections, and other forms of relationships that do not deal with free humans but only with slaves. When we subscribe to the style and the demands of the World we move from one object and subject to the next without any “discernment,” we become distracted by what others want from us and what we want for ourselves and the Lord who is the “origin” of our being and the cause of our remaining in this life.

We must become like Mary who had one goal. While Martha was doing good in deed, she was not at the “feet” of Jesus, being at the kitchen and the table putting the food and listing at the same time mixing two good things, which did not give her time to think and meditate.

Have one master and serve him well rather having too many and serving all of them without attention and maybe with insincerity.

May the Lord give you clear vision.

Philemon asks for your prayer

(no date Feb 1960)

**Luke 11:37-35 – Woe to Pharisees and Lawyers**

***The Pharisees***

[***37***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-37.htm) *When Jesus had said this, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him and he went in and sat down at table.* [***38***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-38.htm) *And when the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that he had not first washed before dinner.*

[***39***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-39.htm) *But the Lord said unto him, “You Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the platter; but your inward part is full of extortion and wickedness.*

[***40***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-40.htm) *Foolish ones, did not he that made the outside make the inside also?* ***41*** *But give for alms its content, and all things are clean for you.*

[***42***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-42.htm) *“But woe unto you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every edible herb, but disregard justice and the love of God: but these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

***43*** *“Woe unto you Pharisees! Fr ye love the chief seats in the synagogues, and the salutations in the marketplaces.*

[***44***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-44.htm) *“Woe unto you! For you are like unmarked graves over which people walk over them without realizing it.”*

***The Lawyers***

***45*** *And one of the lawyers replied to him, “Teacher, in saying this you also are insulting us.*

***46*** *And he said, “Woe to you lawyers too for you weigh down people with burdens grievous to be borne, and you yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.*

[***47***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-47.htm) *Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, whom your fathers killed.* [***48***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-48.htm) *Thereby you give witnesses and consent unto the deeds of your fathers: for they killed them, and you build their tombs.* ***49*** *Therefore also said the wisdom of God, ‘I will send unto them prophets and apostles; and some of them they shall kill and persecute;* [***50***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-50.htm) *that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;* [***51***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-51.htm) *from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zachariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary: yea, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.’*

[***52***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-52.htm) *“Woe unto you lawyers! For ye took away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered,* ***54*** *laying wait for him, to catch something out of his mouth.”*

**Notes and studies**

1. Washing at least the hands before eating was a common practice known to all Jews, (Gen 18:4, Judges 19:21). Jesus was invited to eat ***aristan*** which could be breakfast or lunch according to the meaning of this Greek word.
2. Platter is the Greek word ***pinax***, or dish, so there was a meal ready and we must see that actually Jesus sat to eat without washing his hands.
3. Foolish is the one who has deprived himself by his understanding and behavior from the commonsense of the wisdom of God that was recorded in the sacred books. Foolishness here is obvious, for the outside and the inside are not two separate forms of our life.

**Give alms**

1. The Pharisee was told that he is greedy. He is careful to tithe but neglects the justice and the love of God, which are heavy commandments and require inner discipline more than giving a tithe.
2. It is easy for any of us to do outwardly things to;

a. Gain acceptance by others.

b. Seek praise for our doing.

c. Look for a prominent place in he community.

These are not evil but when either of these or all of them replace justice and love, our ego is magnified to the extent that our life is geared to do the outward things only.

1. Verse [41](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-41.htm): *“But give for alms its content; and, all things are clean for you.”* This says three things:

a. Give alms for alms are remedy for greediness.

b. Do justice and love for God and the inner and the outer will be clean and

c. We do not need water to be purified.

4. Luke used the Greek ***hedyosmon*** which is a popular name for Green Mint, and Rue, which is used for flavoring food.

 

Matthew 23:23 mentions “dill and cumin” but here we have the common herbs used for cooking.

5. The first seat in the synagogue is the best place for honor.

6. “Greeting in the market place” points to someone who in a visible way keeps the Law and is dressed differently. See the outer garment that covered the head, the prayer shawl that is long enough to be seen, such as our friend at the right.



**Unmarked graves**

1. Graves had to be marked so people don’t walk over them, for any contact with anything dead is defilement for the Jews, as said in Leviticus 21:1-4, 10,11 and also in Numbers 19:11-14:

*“He that touches the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days: the same shall purify himself therewith on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean. Whosoever touches the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifies not himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him. This is the law when a man dies in a tent: every one that cometh into the tent, and every one that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days.”*

1. So the Pharisees are in fact defiled in spite of their outer clean manifestation.

**The Lawyers**

1. They said to Jesus “Teacher,” that is “Rabbi,” you are “insulting us,” and this was Jesus’s criticism of the Pharisees, no wit is applied to them because this group was responsible for sullying the Pharisees with all the legal detail that had created the Pharisaic religious life.
2. “Burdens” involved too many legal interpretations of the written Law, such as these 9 classes of work that one could not do on the Sabbath for doing any of them was regarded as violation of the 3rd commandment:

1. Carrying

2. Burning

3. Extinguishing

4. Finishing

5. Writing

6. Erasing

7. Cooking

8. Washing

9. Sewing

10. Tearing

11. Knotting

12. Untying

13. Shaping

14. Plowing

15. Planting

16. Reaping

17. Harvesting

18. Threshing

19. Winnowing

20. Selecting

21. Sifting

22. Grinding

23. Kneading

24. Combing

25. Spinning

26. Dyeing

27. Chain stitching

28. Warping

29. Weaving

30. Unraveling

31. Building

32. Demolishing

33. Trapping

34. Shearing

35. Slaughtering

36. Skinning

37. Tanning

38. Smoothing

39. Marking

**Building the tombs of the prophets**

1. Verses 47-48 was a serous accusation, but GB Caird understood that Jesus meant to say that their fathers killed the prophets because they disturbed their life; now the children build the “tombs” to say they are no longer with us but dead and worry no longer about them. (*The Language and Imagery of the Bible*, p 208, 1980)

2. This kind of corporate participation must be seen as:

a. A continuation of the same attitude and the same hate, “Thereby you give witnesses and consent unto the deeds of your fathers: for they killed them, and you build their tombs”

b. This is confirmed by verses 49-51;

*“****49*** *Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send unto them prophets and apostles; and some of them they shall kill and persecute;* ***50*** *that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;* [***51***](http://biblehub.com/luke/11-51.htm)*from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zachariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary” yea, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.”*

c. This generation will continue walking on the same road.

d. Please note that Jesus is the “Wisdom of God” (1 Cor 1:24, 30, 2:7; Col 2:3)

e. Zachariah could be the son of Jehoiada who was stoned by people during the reign of king Joash in 2 Chronicles 24:20-22:

*“****20*** *Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.”*

***21*** *So they conspired against him and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord.* ***22*** *Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah’s father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, “May the LORD see and avenge.”*

**Class Contacts**

George & May Bebawi Bob & Pam Walters

403 Shoemaker Dr. 12281 Blue Springs Lane

Carmel, IN 46032 Fishers, IN 46037

317-818-1487 317-694-4141 / 317-727-7917

*Audio at GeorgeBebawi.com* rlwcom@aol.com