

**Slide 1**

# **Don't Reject The Light**

## **LUKE 11:29-36**

### **Introduction**

1. You and I, along with each of you joining us virtually this morning have gathered for a purpose.
2. We have come together this morning to . . .
  - a. “give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to [His] name” because He is the “Most High” (Psalm 92:1).
  - b. “declare [His] lovingkindness” (Psalm 92:2).
3. Today, we lift up our souls to the Lord and ask Him to “make glad the soul of Your servant” (Psalm 86:4).
4. Most all of us here today are privileged to be disciples, followers of Jesus Christ and wear the name Christian.
5. At some point in the past, we declared Jesus to be the Son of God, and through our baptism we put Him on as our Lord and Savior.
6. That declaration required a belief on our part that He is exactly who He claimed to be.
7. But, how much evidence was required for you to believe?
8. For some, there is never enough evidence. More is always demanded.
9. In our reading today, we see Jesus’ response to those who after almost three years of healing the sick, feeding the hungry, raising the dead and preaching the good news there were those who still demanded more.
10. Jesus had something to say to them, which I would like for us to pay close attention.
11. It is important that we not go down the same path. Our eternal salvation depends on it.

**Slide 2**

## I. Hardened Hearts Invite Condemnation

### A. THE GREAT SIGN (vv. 29-30)

“This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.” (Luke 11:29–30)

1. Jesus said, “This generation is a wicked generation” (v. 29).
  - a. They were not just people who were misled or ignorant.
  - b. No, their wickedness was a “knowing and intentional wickedness.”
2. According to Matthew’s account, Jesus said, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign” (Matthew 12:39).
3. By asking for “a sign from heaven” (v. 16), they were looking for something other than Jesus, something more spiritual.
4. The apostle John wrote of a number of signs which Jesus provided for the people so that they might believe in Him:
  - a. Water to wine (John 2:1-11).
  - b. Healing of the official’s son at Capernaum (John 4:46-54).
  - c. Feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-14).
5. It wasn’t long after this miracle that this same crowd asked Jesus, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?” (John 6:30).
6. The problem with signs is that they are never enough. People will always want more.
7. Jesus told the people that the only sign they would be given would be the sign of Jonah.
8. Matthew tells us what Jesus meant by those words (Matthew 12:40).

“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (ESV).

### Slide 3

## B. A GREAT CONDEMNATION (VV. 31-32)

Two Examples:

### 1. The Queen of the South (1 Kings 10:1-10; 2 Chronicles 9:1-12)

“The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.” (Luke 11:31)

- a. Sheba was in southern Arabia, the modern Yemen.
- b. This queen had heard the stories of Solomon, but she had to see for herself.
- c. She made the long journey — “from the ends of the earth” — of some 1500 miles, over a period of many months, with “a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones” (1 Kings 10:2).
- d. After asking him all that she could think to ask and seeing what he had built and the organization of his kingdom, she was overwhelmed — (“there was no more spirit in her” ).
- e. Three times in 1 Kings 10, she spoke of the greatness of his wisdom.
- f. Jesus said that she would stand up at the judgment and condemn “this generation” because “something greater than Solomon is here.”
  - 1) Solomon’s wisdom was given to him by God, but Jesus is the Wisdom of God in human form.
  - 2) Whereas, the Queen of Sheba made the long difficult journey to see Solomon, the people of Jesus’ day had Him in their midst.
  - 3) The treasure of heaven was standing before them, but still, they

asked for more.

- g. Are we guilty of doing the same? Do we say we want more, that what we have in Christ is not enough?
- h. If so, then we too will be condemned at judgment by this woman.

#### Slide 4

### 2. The Men of Nineveh (Jonah 3:4-10)

“The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.” (Luke 11:32)

- a. Jonah’s preaching was simple and to the point: “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown” (Jonah 3:4).
- b. He came as a messenger of God preaching a message to those who ...
  - 1) did not worship the God of Israel.
  - 2) were enemies of God’s people
- c. However, “the people of Nineveh believed God” and repented, by “[calling] a fast and [putting] on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them” (Jonah 3:5).
- d. Jesus came as God in the flesh to those who “were His own,” in order to take away their sins, but they “did not receive him.”
- e. He preached to them repentance and salvation, but they hardened their hearts.
- f. Jesus said that “at the judgment,” “the men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation . . . and condemn it.”
- g. Will they condemn us as well?
- h. The question of Hebrews 2:3 is one we should seriously consider, “how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”

[Having said all this, Jesus spoke to them and He speaks to us as well about the

light that enters our hearts, and issues . . . ]

**Slide 5**

## **II. A Challenge To All Hearts (vv. 33-36)**

### **A. JESUS' LAMP (v. 33)**

“No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.” (Luke 11:33)

1. The function of light is to shine.
  - a. No one lights a lamp and then puts it in a place where it cannot be seen.
  - b. Instead, it is put where its light may be seen to the best advantage.
2. Jesus' refusal to give the Jews the sign they asked for does not mean that He wishes to hide the light of the Gospel.
3. The reason why this “wicked generation” continued to live in darkness and not see and accept Jesus as the Messiah is because of the wickedness in their own hearts.

**Slide 6**

### **B. OUR LAMPS (v. 34)**

“The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.” (Luke 11:34)

1. Your eye is the lamp of your body because it allows light to enter.
2. When your eye is sound and light is shining, your eye enables you to see where you are, how to walk and how to do your work.
  - a. How much did you depend upon your eyes to enter the building this morning and find your seat?
  - b. For those at home who are watching this service, did you not need your sight to find us on your computer, TV or radio?
3. If something wrong with your eye, then no matter how much light is shining, it is of no use — your body is “full of darkness.”

4. Everything is adversely affected.
6. Jesus is speaking metaphorically of our spiritual perception.
7. When our “eye,” our inner life is right and pure toward God, then the light of the good news of Christ, of the salvation offered through Jesus shines brightly into our hearts and lives.
8. Then, our interior being (soul, spirit) will be illumined with the Light of the world, and we will . . .
  - a. “walk as children of Light” (Ephesians 5:8).
  - b. “shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15, ESV).
9. On the other hand, if our eye is bad — *lit.* ‘evil’ — then the outcome is disastrous because we are blind to the beauty and message of God’s Word.

### Slide 7

### C. THE CHALLENGE (V. 35)

“Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.” (Luke 11:35)

1. “Watch out” (“take heed,” NKJV; “be careful,” ESV)
  - a. It is up to us
  - b. The ball is in our court.
    - 1) The coaches can’t do anything.
    - 2) Neither can the players on the sidelines.
    - 3) Nor the fans.
  - c. We are the ones who must take action.
2. We must make sure that our inward attitude is not wrong so that the light of Christ is not hindered from shining in our lives and bringing beneficial results.
2. What can we do?
  - a. Be men and women of *prayer*.
    - 1) Confess our sins before God.
    - 2) Ask Him to keep us from becoming a “wicked generation.”
    - 3) Ask Him to keep our eyes clear and our vision focused.

- b. Spend time in contemplation.
  - 1) Engage in healthy introspection.
  - 2) Ask ourselves, "Is the light in me actually darkness?"
  - 3) Make every effort to see that it is not.
- c. Read the Word of God
  - 1) Give quality time to its study.
  - 2) Concentrate fully on its truths.

## **Conclusion**

1. What is our take away in all this?
2. It is that we do not reject Christ and lose the opportunity for His light to shine in us.
3. You and I are called to be "lights in this world" and to let our light shine in such a way that others may see our good works and glorify God.
4. This cannot happen if our hearts are hard and we reject His offer to us of salvation.
5. Today, why not let Him remove the darkness from your life and give you "the Light of life" (John 8:12).

### **Slide 8**

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life" (John 8:12).