

Luke 11:27-36 Truth and Light

**Because human happiness is found in Jesus Christ who reveals God and His will through His incarnation, we are called to hear, to keep, and to display the light of Christ.**

**1) Human happiness is found in knowing God and His will (11:27-28).**

- a) The woman's blessing focuses on Mary's honor in human society as the mother of such a great man/the Messiah (cf. 1:48). Jesus' reply of "rather" may also be translated "yes, but," acknowledging the truth in what the woman has said of Mary, but indicating that she is restricting Mary's blessing too narrowly to the honor/shame code of human society.
- b) Jesus elevates the blessedness of hearing and keeping the Word of God above the blessedness of being the Messiah's mother.
  - i) "Hearing" the Word of God is the reception of God's revelation of Himself and of His will.
  - ii) "Keeping" the Word of God can mean both to guard it, treasuring it up as a precious possession, and to obey it.
- c) Our happiness/blessedness depends on knowing God.
- d) Our happiness/blessedness increases as we keep God's Word.
- e) Application: Stop the futile quest for joy in substitutes for God. Find your joy in knowing Him. Increase your joy by obeying Him from the heart.

**2) Jesus Christ is the incarnation of the Word and Wisdom of God to make known God and His will (11:29-32).**

- a) Strong Rebuke for Unbelief— (cf. 11:16) "evil generation"
- b) The sign of Jonah (cf. Matt. 12:38-40)—the death and resurrection of Jesus; prefigured in Jonah's deliverance from the fish, which was his grave (Jonah 2:2)
- c) "This generation" of Jews vs. Gentiles with lesser lights
- d) "something greater"
  - i) A greater/wiser King than Solomon=the Wisdom of God to rule His Kingdom (1 Kings 10)
  - ii) A greater prophet than Jonah=the WORD made flesh
- e) As the WORD of God, Jesus gives us knowledge of God the Trinity.
  - i) As the Son, He reveals the Father, and gives the Holy Spirit, whom we know as the Spirit of Christ.
  - ii) Through His cross we see the justice and mercy of God as never before.
  - iii) Through the cross we see the wisdom and love of God.
  - iv) Through the resurrection we see His power and purpose for New Creation.
- f) As the Wisdom of God, Jesus gives us knowledge of the will of God.
  - i) His perfect obedience shows us what the law requires: perfect love of neighbor; perfect love of God.
  - ii) His teaching expounds the law of God for all nations.
  - iii) He shows us the only way of salvation—faith in His person and work.
- g) Application: How well do you know Christ? Study the Scriptures (OT and NT) to know all that we can know of Him.

**3) Those who hear and keep the Word of God display the light of Christ for the joy of God's people forever (11:33-36).**

- a) v. 33—What will be done with God's revelation in Christ?
  - i) Suppress the Truth?
  - ii) Display the Truth?
- b) v. 34—What determines a person's response to Christ?
  - i) A single-focused eye = God-given faith to see Christ
  - ii) An evil eye = sin-clouded sight of Christ that cannot perceive the Truth
- c) v. 35—Warning! Is your discernment of truth darkened by sin?
- d) v. 36—Hope! The light of Jesus Christ will permeate your entire being so that His glory will be displayed in your life forever. That's called glorification.
- e) Application:
  - i) Walk in the light (1 John 1:5-7). Repent of the darkness.
  - ii) How are you displaying Christ now?

**Doxology:** God is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.