

## Sun., May 15: Morning Worship

Memory Verse: “Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn’t darkness.” -Luke 11:35

Message: Luke 4 Rejected 4: “Harsh Words” -Andrea, Teresa G., & Colleen

Text: Luke 11:53-54 “As Jesus left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent Him deeply and to ask Him pointed questions about many things. They plotted against Him, trying to trap Him in His words.”

Scripture: Luke 11:29-54

Blurb: It’s so good to have a panel of disciples help us read this week’s passage from Luke. Jesus is condemning the religious leaders for things that we know we do, too! We learn this Sunday how to guard against religious hypocrisy and legalism. Instead, we are to be filled with God’s Light, and then shine out God’s Light so others can see!

Bulletin listing of the reading for next Sunday: Luke 12:1-34

## Spring Series: Luke 4 “Rejected” (Luke 10-12)

Series Blurb: After Easter we’ll go back into the story of Jesus in Luke. We pick it up again at the point when Jesus’ popularity is fading and He is started to be cancelled by powerful people. His message becomes more difficult to receive as He is pointing out sin, calling people to put away selfishness and to embrace self sacrifice. We’re going to call this series (Luke 10-12), “Rejected.”

Series Text: Luke 11:53-54 “As Jesus left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent Him deeply and to ask Him pointed questions about many things. They plotted against Him, trying to trap Him in His words.”

Message Panel:

To be bold, we’re going to try something different for this spring series. Each Sunday, instead of me giving a sermon, we’re going to have a panel from our church share insights and reflections on the readings each week. Our goal is to hear how other Jesus-followers try to understand and then faithfully live out Jesus’ calling. People just like you (or perhaps it will be you!) will share how they hear what story of Jesus in Luke means for living as a faithful disciple today.

April 24	Luke 10a (Luke 10:1-24, Sent out: the 72) Gina Lindholm, Tracy Bonsell, Vicky Keintz
May 1 [HC]	Luke 10b (Luke 10:25-42, Loving in Service) Liljuan, George Mix, Duane D.
May 8 [Mother’s Day]	Luke 11a (Luke 11:1-28, Prayer in Practice (red-lettered words) 1) Sherry, Marilee & Reese
May 15	Luke 11b (Luke 11:29-53, Jesus in the Red (red-lettered words) 2) Andrea H., Teresa G. & Colleen K.
May 22	Luke 12a (Luke 12:1-34, Jesus in the Red (red-lettered words) 3) Tracy H.?, Bob R., Pat R.?
May 29 [Memorial Sunday]	Luke 12b (Luke 12:35-59, Jesus in the Red (red-lettered words) 4) Sue L., Lily B., Julie H.

***[Recorded Worship Beginning]***

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn’t darkness.” -Luke 11:35

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Prerecording

*Let Your Kingdom Come*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

***[Live Worship Beginning]***

**GATHERING SONG:** *Cannons* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn’t darkness.” -Luke 11:35

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Love Is a Mess*

*Let Your Kingdom Come*

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

***[Both Recorded & Live Worship]***

**LOVE/SERVE MOMENT:** Love Offering & St. Andrew’s Family Shelter week - Pastor Andrew

**PRAYERS** - Pastor Andrew

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE** -Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE: Luke 4 Rejected (Luke 10-12) 4: “Harsh Words”**

**PP#1:** Rejected 4: “Harsh Words”

Luke 11:53-54 “As Jesus left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent Him deeply and to ask Him pointed questions about many things. They plotted against Him, trying to trap him in His words.”

“Rejected: Harsh Words.” Luke 11:53-54 “As Jesus left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent Him deeply and to ask Him pointed questions about many things. They plotted against Him, trying to trap Him in His words.”

**PP#2:** *Two juxtapositioned images of Jesus as 1. Kind and welcoming and 2. Stern and judging*

Well, today we come to one of the hardest passages in Luke. In chapters 10-13, Luke strings together a series of Jesus’ teachings given in over different times and places. Some of them are familiar and well received, like Jesus’ teachings of prayer and the Good Samaritan. Others, like the last half of Luke 11, are Jesus’ stern woes against those who refuse to really listen to Him, those who want to use Him for selfish reasons, or those who outright reject Him.

This is hard, because we normally see Jesus as warm and inviting, kind and caring. But today we see Jesus frustrated at how He and His message are not being received, and we hear Him give stern warnings against those who are not taking Him seriously.

**PP#3:** *Yet another image of a panel of famous people.*

So, hard stuff today. Therefore, it is good that we have a panel of three disciples who are willing to share with us how they wrestle with what Jesus says here and how they apply it to their own Christian walks. As we are continuing on with Mother’s Day for a second Sunday—thanks to supply chain issues—so I’m pleased to call up three women as our panel today.

So, panel, please come on up. And church, let’s welcome them and affirm their bravery!

*[Andrea Hendrickson, Colleen Kargel and Teresa Gruber come up and sit on the stools.]*

Welcome, ladies, and thank you for being willing to be our panel today. When you agreed to serve, you didn’t know which passage from Luke you would get, so: you “win” the lottery!

But we are so grateful to hear how you have been wrestling with these woes from Jesus, and what you do with them as disciples of Jesus. You help us in our discipleship walks! Thank you!

**PP#4:** Panel: Andrea Hendrickson, Colleen Kargel and Teresa Gruber

So, panel, please introduce yourselves and share how you celebrated Mother’s Day.

Andrea: Introduce yourself and share how you celebrated Mother’s Day.

Colleen: Introduce yourself and share how you celebrated Mother’s Day.

Teresa: Introduce yourself and share how you celebrated Mother’s Day.

Thank you so much, and thank you women, for your investment in mothering the next generation of God's family, especially here at our church!

**PP#5:** *Image of Jesus teaching His disciples, w/a crowd gathered, subtitled, Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)*

So, church, let's dive in. We listen to Jesus even when He says things that are not easy to hear. We pray for the Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts and to receive what He wants us to hear today. Amen!

Okay, so Chapter 11 started out with Jesus praying and teaching His disciples how to pray from the heart. He gives what we now call The Lord's Prayer as a model for how to pray. He tells the parable of the persistent widow to urge His disciples to be persistent in praying. Then, He rebuffs accusations that He was casting out demons using demonic power.

There are still crowds around Jesus, even as He spars with the Jewish leaders. But Jesus also speaks harshly to the crowds, whom, it seems, are more interested in Jesus' miracles than His true message of repenting and turning to God wholeheartedly.

**PP#6:** Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)

29 When the crowds grew, Jesus said, "This generation is an evil generation. It looks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except Jonah's sign. 30 Just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from a distant land to hear Solomon's wisdom. And look, someone greater than Solomon is here. 32 The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they changed their hearts and lives in response to Jonah's preaching—and one greater than Jonah is here.

Jesus begins by pointing back to the prophet Jonah sent to Ninevah and the Queen of Sheba who came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. The people of Ninevah *listened* to Jonah and repented, and the Queen of Sheba *listened* to Solomon. In the margins of verses 29-32, write, "Are you listening?" The crowd around Jesus, He says, isn't listening to Him but only wants signs. But Jesus is the Son of Man and greater than Jonah and Solomon, and so the stories of Jonah and the Queen of Sheba point out their hardheartedness.

Verse 29, "When the crowds grew, Jesus said, 'This generation is an evil generation. It looks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except Jonah's sign. 30 Just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from a distant land to hear Solomon's wisdom. And look, someone greater than Solomon is here. 32 The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they changed their hearts and lives in response to Jonah's preaching—and one greater than Jonah is here.'

Okay, panel, help us. What's really going on here...what's the message? Andrea, let's have you go first.

Andrea: Jesus is trying to break out of a role that people were putting Him in, not because He didn't want to help them but because they were not listening to the message He was trying to say.

They were focusing on the desire for immediate physical signs such as healing, miracles,

prophesies, and missing the bigger picture. That Jesus is the miracle, not just a miracle worker! We shouldn't forget the biggest miracle is a place in heaven. Yes, Jesus helps people's lives now with physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, but He also came to help them out eternally.

We need to keep an eternal perspective while living in the here and now. Very good! Thank you. How about you, Colleen?

Colleen: When I read these passages and some of the passages in earlier chapters of Luke, I think Jesus is revealing a bit of His "human" side to us as He becomes increasingly frustrated with other humans who are just showing up for "Bible Theater." Perhaps because Jesus knows His time on earth is soon ending, He has little patience for the people who are more interested in stage show entertainment than salvation. Jesus is trying to get them to see that miracles are from heaven, but the people are only interested in "earthly miracles." This brought many relevant questions to mind like, "How do I show up at church at week? Are we truly there to listen and appreciate our salvation? Do we fully acknowledge or even notice the miracles or blessings that God provides in our daily lives? What do we do with that knowledge? How do we share it with others? Do we want to passively sit in the audience and not actually participate? Are we really that different from the "evil generation" just watching the show?"

Way to bring it home! How often do *we* treat worship as entertainment? We need to show up ready to focus on Jesus.

**PP#7:** *Image for Jesus' teaching on God's light within us, and we are lamps (Luke 11:33-35)*

Luke next records Jesus' teaching on light, which calls to our minds what He said in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:22-23. Jesus had provided the light of the Gospel for everyone around Him. But they were not looking for true light. What you look at and choose to see affects your inner light. The light of God shines out of God's people when we keep it pure.

**PP#8:** Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)

33 "People don't light a lamp and then put it in a closet or under a basket. Rather, they place the lamp on a lampstand so that those who enter the house can see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn't darkness. 36 If your whole body is full of light—with no part darkened—then it will be as full of light as when a lamp shines brightly on you."

We read from verse 33, "People don't light a lamp and then put it in a closet or under a basket. Rather, they place the lamp on a lampstand so that those who enter the house can see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn't darkness. 36 If your whole body is full of light—with no part darkened—then it will be as full of light as when a lamp shines brightly on you."

So, Teresa, bring *light* to this passage for us!

Teresa: This passage contrasts the light and dark - When you focus on light you fill with and reflect light, but when you focus on darkness you fill with and reflect dark. But as I sat with it, I realized we live in a world full of the gray in between. If we focus on something other than the light, then we fill with and reflect something other than the light. A person can be focused on something good, like their job, or the environment, or some other cause - but we need to consider if we have a God-centered focus, are we focused on the environment because we are stewarding God's creation and do we reflect it as such.

How *enlightening*! Thank you, Teresa. Colleen, back to you.

Colleen: As I read this verse, the song "This Little Light of Mine" started running through my mind. I used to sing it to both Shane and Erik when they were babies, but Shane especially loved the song. He'd bounce on my knee and just laugh and laugh with an inner joy. The pastor at his baptism commented that you could see the light coming from him. I believe that Shane, in his innocence, like true believers of Christ have an inner joy from the Holy Spirit that radiates from them like a bright light. They literally light up a room when they walk in. We do not create this light on our own...It only come from the Holy Spirit. I also believe that Satan can lurk in dark places literally all around us and even sometimes within us. The only protection is the light from the Holy Spirit which can illuminate these dark places and keep Satan out. We must be diligent in our faith to keep the light bright.

The Holy Spirit is our light: keep Him burning bright within! Excellent!

**PP#9:** *Jesus eating at a pharisee's house.*

Okay, now a pharisee invites Jesus to come eat with him. Jesus accepts: He's still trying to reach them! Well, during the meal, when the pharisee judges Jesus in his heart, Jesus speaks three "woes" against the hypocrisy of pharisees. The Jewish laws of the Bible didn't require a ritual washing in this setting, but pharisees did lots of extra washings. When Jesus didn't, the pharisee was judgmental. Jesus points out the hypocrisy of worrying about the outer rituals but not the inner godly attitudes towards others that the Laws were supposed to create.

**PP#10:** Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)

37 While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to share a meal with Him, so Jesus went and took His place at the table. 38 When the Pharisee saw that Jesus didn't ritually purify His hands by washing before the meal, he was astonished.

39 The Lord said to him, "Now, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and platter, but your insides are stuffed with greed and wickedness. 40 Foolish people! Didn't the one who made the outside also make the inside? 41 Therefore, give to those in need from the core of who you are and you will be clean all over.

We read starting at verse 37, "While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to share a meal with Him, so Jesus went and took His place at the table. 38 When the Pharisee saw that Jesus didn't ritually purify His hands by washing before the meal, he was astonished. 39 The Lord said to him, 'Now, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and platter, but your insides are stuffed with greed and wickedness. 40 Foolish people! Didn't the one who made the outside also make the

inside? 41 Therefore, give to those in need from the core of who you are and you will be clean all over.’

**PP#11:** Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)

42 “How terrible for you Pharisees! You give a tenth of your mint, rue, and garden herbs of all kinds, while neglecting justice and love for God. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.

43 “How terrible for you Pharisees! You love the most prominent seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

44 “How terrible for you! You are like unmarked graves, and people walk on them without recognizing it.”

Woe #1: “42 ‘How terrible for you Pharisees! You give a tenth of your mint, rue, and garden herbs of all kinds, while neglecting justice and love for God. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.’”

Woe #2: “43 ‘How terrible for you Pharisees! You love the most prominent seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.’”

Woe #3: “44 ‘How terrible for you! You are like unmarked graves, and people walk on them without recognizing it.’”

Andrea: It’s tempting to think, “I’m not Pharisee, so Jesus is not talking to me. I’m off the hook.”

But I still need to apply what He is saying in this chapter to my life. We need to look at our motivations and actions. Are doing things so we earn praise and admiration of others, or because we think we can earn our way into heaven through good works? These are things that are visible on the outside. But to God, being clean on the inside (which people don’t always see) is more important than the outside. Being clean on the inside is to have your priorities and spiritual life in order, to love God and love your neighbor. I think it is harder to wash the dirt off the inside than the outside!

Wow, isn’t that the truth! That takes intentional work. Teresa, let’s go to you.

Teresa: I cringe when I read the passages about legalism, I want to say, “You’re missing the point!”

When I give my mom a card, she doesn’t care if I do it perfectly. She’s not concerned with my punctuation, grammar, or even my penmanship as long as she can read it. She cares about what’s in my heart and what is in the message, our relationship.

Yes, Jesus is trying to get to the intention behind the actions. Their true value comes in why we do what we do for God.

**PP#12:** Jesus’ criticism of the Jewish leaders is that they keep people from God:

Pharisees, by their hypocrisy,

and

Scribes, by their burdensome rules.

The pharisees followed so many rules that normal people couldn’t follow them and earn a living. Jesus didn’t condemn them for following the rules, His main problem with them was their

hypocrisy. The scribes were the teachers of the laws and so often worked with the pharisees. One legal expert heard Jesus criticize the pharisees and said, “Hey, that stings us too.” Jesus says, “Yes it does!” and gives three woes against them. His main criticism of the teachers was that they added so many more rules that their religion became oppressive. They were saying that people had to work hard in order to please God. Once again, they pushed people away from God.

**PP#13:** Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)

45, “One of the legal experts responded, ‘Teacher, when you say these things, you are insulting us too.’”

46 Jesus said, “How terrible for you legal experts too! You load people down with impossible burdens and you refuse to lift a single finger to help them.

47 “How terrible for you! You built memorials to the prophets, whom your ancestors killed. 48 In this way, you testify that you approve of your ancestors’ deeds. They killed the prophets, and you build memorials! 49 Therefore, God’s wisdom has said, ‘I will send prophets and apostles to them and they will harass and kill some of them.’

Let’s look at our last section. Verse 45, “One of the legal experts responded, ‘Teacher, when you say these things, you are insulting us too.’”

46 ‘Jesus said, [Woe #1] ‘How terrible for you legal experts too! You load people down with impossible burdens and you refuse to lift a single finger to help them.’”

Woe #2: 47 “‘How terrible for you! You built memorials to the prophets, whom your ancestors killed. 48 In this way, you testify that you approve of your ancestors’ deeds. They killed the prophets, and you build memorials! 49 Therefore, God’s wisdom has said, ‘I will send prophets and apostles to them and they will harass and kill some of them.’”

**PP#14:** Luke 11:29-54 (CEB)

50 As a result, this generation will be charged with the murder of all the prophets since the beginning of time. 51 This includes the murder of every prophet—from Abel to Zechariah—who was killed between the altar and the holy place. Yes, I’m telling you, this generation will be charged with it.

52 “How terrible for you legal experts! You snatched away the key of knowledge. You didn’t enter yourselves, and you stood in the way of those who were entering.”

53 As He left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent Him deeply and to ask Him pointed questions about many things. 54 They plotted against Him, trying to trap Him in His words.

50 “‘As a result, this generation will be charged with the murder of all the prophets since the beginning of time. 51 This includes the murder of every prophet—from Abel to Zechariah—who was killed between the altar and the holy place. Yes, I’m telling you, this generation will be charged with it.’” Yikes! They venerate the previous prophets, but ignore God there with them now. Ouch.

Woe #3, 52 “‘How terrible for you legal experts! You snatched away the key of knowledge. You didn’t enter yourselves, and you stood in the way of those who were entering.’”

53 “As He left there, the legal experts and Pharisees began to resent Him deeply [shock!] and to ask Him pointed questions about many things. 54 They plotted against Him, trying to trap Him in His words.”



Well, no surprise that the Jewish leaders began to resent Jesus, right? So, Colleen, help us understand what we can do with these woes from Jesus.

Colleen: While His words are harsh, Jesus is making the point that His teachings are for all people... from the lowliest worker to the highest pharisee. For generations, the common people had been told that they were not good enough or smart enough to truly understand and interpret the scriptures. Jesus tells them that they have “snatched away the key of knowledge and stood in the way of others.” The Pharisees and the scribes had made a relationship with God so exclusionary with so many complex rules, rituals and restrictions, that it is no wonder the people came just to see Jesus do miracles! They were simply not accustomed to being told that you only had to believe to achieve salvation. We can judge the pharisees and the scribes, but if we self-reflect, are there ways we also make the church exclusionary or create political division in society by focusing on our Biblically-based do’s and don’ts? We put a lot of time and energy into the “shoulds”; and the “oughts”; what is wrong; what is right... We make it overly complicated and probably make being a Christian seem unapproachable to many nonbelievers. However, Jesus reaffirms that it is not complicated. It is actually quite simple. All we need to do is “Love God” and Love Others.” If we put everything through this filter, all the rest that is not important falls away, and we can become what Christ commissioned us to be.

As scripture, this passage calls us to reflect just how much we are like the pharisees and scribes. Love God and others! Yes. How about you, Andrea? Some insight, please?

Andrea: Do not hinder others from seeking and finding God! Do we create barriers for other Christians and non-Christians? Do we have a litmus test for being Christian enough? Do we welcome other Christian denominations as God’s children or do we think that we have it right and others have it wrong? I sometimes imagine God in heaven shaking His head when His children bicker. Do we judge others on the various social issues so that we drive them away from Christianity? I get frustrated when people take scripture passages out of context to defend something, and they are so sure they are right. And both sides do this! It is really important to your focus on God and when in doubt WWJD - What Would Jesus Do.

Yes, it seems so simplistic, but it is so helpful to be guided by that. Agreed.

Well, panel, thank you for sharing from your own reading of these passages. We believe that the Holy Spirit has worked in you to give us God’s Words in ways that we can apply them.

**PP#15:** Words to live by [*with an image of how we shine God’s Light in the world*]

But, before you go, share with us one more time. What kind of “rose to the top” for you through all this: what is a key takeaway from your time with this passage?

Teresa: We recently bought new appliances, and when I went through the owners manual I learned about the “Sabbath mode” settings. Somewhere Jewish scholars worked with major appliance companies to define rules and settings including that while you can open the fridge, no light will come on - you can use the oven but cannot adjust the temp or set the timer. I don’t say this to disparage Jewish practices - but it’s easy for us to see how others

are creating laws that put obstacles in the way of faith. But really, modern Christian churches often do the same. We constantly put out the message that it's so simple - in Romans 10 verse 9, if you confess Jesus as Lord, and believe you ARE saved. But then we also indicate some passages of the Bible can't be understood without knowing more, looking at broader context, hearing about the nuances of original language. We need to be sure we check ourselves for what obstacles we are placing in the way for others.

Yes, that's part of our calling to love others and to invite them into relationship with God!  
Andrea, what is a key application for you?

Andrea: Jesus' words could have been spoken directly to me, and maybe to some of you also. He is rebuking us to not miss the points: that Jesus "is" the miracle, that you should share your light so others will glorify God, that being spiritually clean inside is more important than being superficially clean on the outside, and do not hinder people (even unintentionally) from seeking and finding God. I guess this could be summed up as, you should glorify God in heaven, not seek glory for yourself on earth.

And there it is again: focus on God and not get too absorbed with the benefits in this life. Our eternal life lasts so much longer, right?  
And Colleen, a key insight, please.

Colleen: All of the rituals, judgment and earthly divisions are human complications that cause the light of the Holy Spirit within us to grow dimmer. These are not of God. Instead, we are called to love God and love others. When we do, the light of the Holy Spirit will shine brightly from within us for all to see.

Thank you! Yes, we are charged to go be the Light of God in our world. We are lamps, and our purpose is show the way for others to come to know God, too.

Panel, your light has helped guide us through a hard passage. Continue to show us the way of Jesus. We join you. Right church?

Amen!

**[Live Worship Only] CLOSING SONG: *Consuming Fire* -Sanctify**

**OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David**

Wednesday meal - Rosenbaums

Next Sunday: Panel is Bob & Pat Rosenbaum and Tracy Hansen!

Read ahead: Luke 12:1-34

**MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David**

"Therefore, see to it that the light in you isn't darkness." -Luke 11:35

**BENEDICTION -Pastor David**

**POSTLUDE -Sanctify (live)**