LUKE 11

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

a pattern prayer, a knock at midnight, a stronger Man, a greater sign, and six woes at a Pharisee's table

> *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."*
> LUKE 11:9

Where we are in Luke

1. Luke 9:51 turned the story toward the cross: Jesus “was determined to go to Jerusalem.”

2. No Gospel shows Jesus praying more than Luke.

3. The middle of the chapter is a contest of kingdoms.

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

A disciple watches Jesus pray, and Jesus gives a pattern for every prayer

LUKE 11:2

And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

DAVID GUZIK

Our greatest need is to pray more; a marvel of simplicity.

R.C. SPROUL

A pattern, not a script; pray with the mind of Christ.

MATTHEW HENRY

Prayer is a law of religion; sins are daily debts.

ἁγιασθήτω
HAGIASTHĒTŌ · "HALLOWED BE"

From hagiazō, to make holy, to set apart, to treat as holy.

The pattern prayer



Read top to bottom: the prayer starts with the Father and His glory, then brings our daily needs — bread, forgiveness, protection — and the chapter ends the lesson with the Father's promise of the Spirit.

Ask, Seek, Knock

A friend at midnight, a father at the table, and the Holy Spirit for those who ask

LUKE 11:9

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

DAVID GUZIK

Persistence changes us, not God; the problem is our receiving.

R.C. SPROUL

Asking is for our benefit; only the converted truly seek.

C.H. SPURGEON

No counterfeits: fish is fish; the Spirit is the best prayer.

MATTHEW HENRY

God is not worn down; the man asked for his friend.

ἀναίδεια

ANAIDEIA · "PERSISTENCE"

Found only here in the New Testament.

Someone Stronger Than He

A mute man speaks, critics cry Beelzebul, and Jesus plunders the strong man's house

LUKE 11:20

"But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

DAVID GUZIK

Satan is no fool; no neutrality; Jesus fills the house.

R.C. SPROUL

Satan is a creature; miracles authenticate the gospel.

C.H. SPURGEON

Nature, reformation, conversion — change of heart, not life.

MATTHEW HENRY

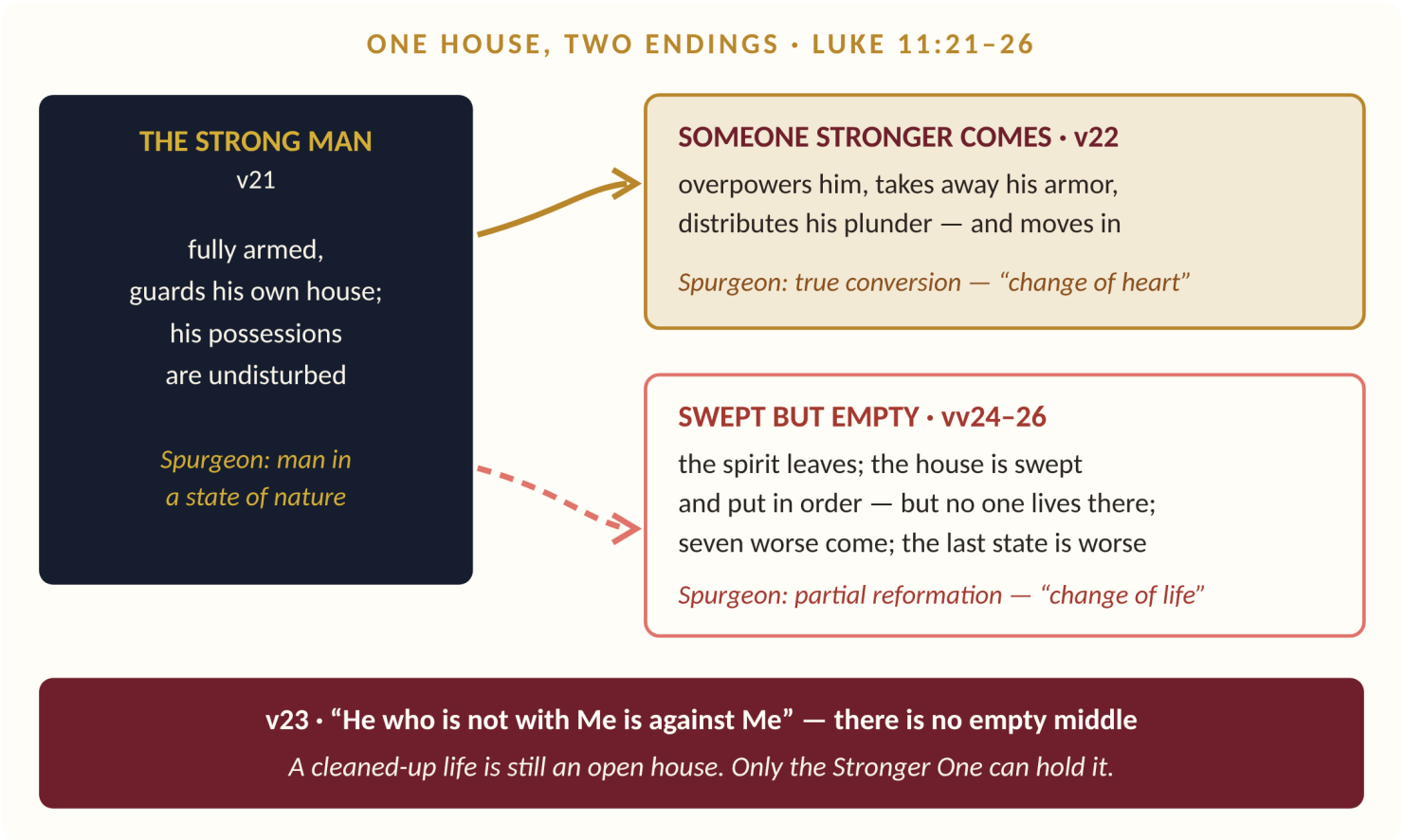
Conversion is Christ's victory; hypocrisy is the road to apostasy.

δάκτυλος θεοῦ

DAKTYLOS THEOU · "FINGER OF GOD"

Daktylos, finger. Pharaoh's magicians said "This is the finger of God" when they could not copy the gnats (Exodus 8:19); it was the power no magic could copy.

One house, two endings



Follow the two arrows out of the strong man's house: one leads to the Stronger One moving in, the other to a swept, empty house that ends worse than it began.

Something Greater Is Here

The sign of Jonah, the Queen of the South, and the lamp of the body

LUKE 11:29

As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "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.

DAVID GUZIK

Jesus Himself is the sign; signs cannot change a heart.

R.C. SPROUL

The ultimate sign is given; no R.S.V.P. with the gospel.

C.H. SPURGEON

Jonah's rising pictures Christ's; a false light is darkness.

MATTHEW HENRY

Christ preached openly; keep the mind's eye clear.

σημεῖον
SĒMEION · "SIGN"

A sign, a mark, a token that points beyond itself.

Woe to You

Clean cups, dirty hearts, heavy burdens, and the key of knowledge taken away

LUKE 11:42

"But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

DAVID GUZIK

Outward goodness is not a good heart; hindering others is worse.

R.C. SPROUL

Sin is not hypocrisy; the clergy hated Jesus.

C.H. SPURGEON

Wash the heart, not just the hands; they hindered the entering.

MATTHEW HENRY

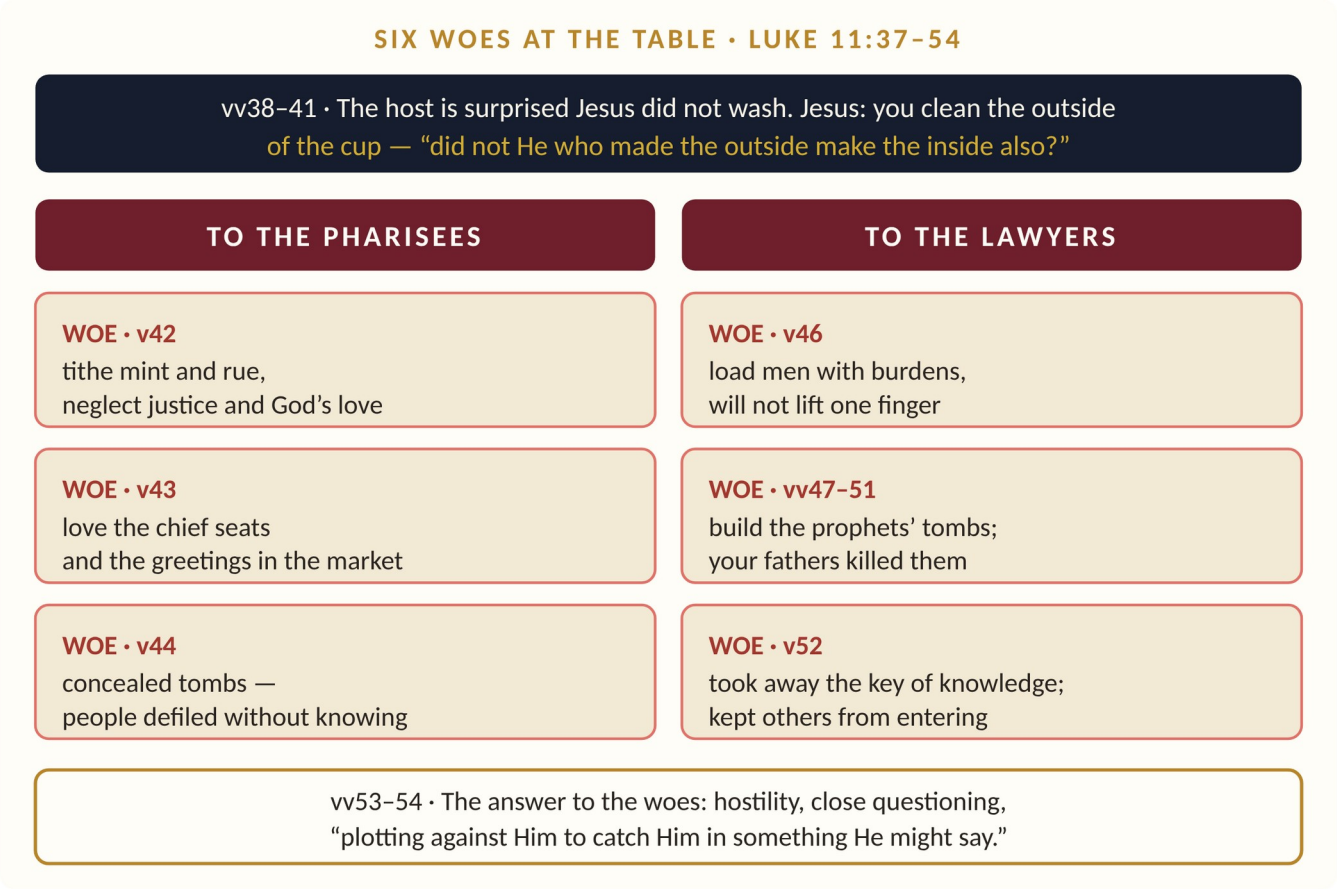
Trifles over weighty things; reprovers must expect enemies.

οὐαί

OUAI · "WOE"

An interjection of grief and warning, like "alas!"

Six woes at the table



Three woes for the Pharisees and three for the lawyers, framed by a dirty cup at the start and a plot at the end.

What to carry from this chapter

1

They asked to be taught after watching Him.

Luke shows Jesus praying more than any Gospel (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:29).

2

God's name before my needs.

Two "Your" requests come before three "us" requests.

3

Shameless asking.

Anaideia (v8), found only here, means "shamelessness."

4

Keep asking.

All three verbs in verse 9 are present imperatives.

More to carry

5

The best gift is the Spirit.

Matthew says “what is good” (7:11); Luke names the best of them — the Holy Spirit (v13).

6

One finger of God.

The finger of God frees a mute man (v20); the lawyers will not lift “one of your fingers” to help anyone (v46).

7

A clean, empty house is not safe.

Spurgeon: “This is conversion, the other was only conviction; this is change of heart, the other was only change of life.”

8

Hearing and keeping beats every privilege.

A woman blessed Mary’s womb; Jesus blessed “those who hear the word of God and observe it” (v28).

Talk it through

1. The disciples asked to be taught to pray after watching Jesus pray. If someone watched my life this week, what would make him want to pray?

2. Which of the five requests in the Lord's Prayer do I skip most — God's name, His kingdom, bread, forgiveness or protection — and why?

3. Where have I quit asking God for something, and what would "shameless" persistence look like there?

4. Jesus says a cleaned-up life with no one living in it ends worse than it began. What have I swept out of my life that I have not yet let Christ fill?

5. What signs do I still demand from God before I will trust Him, when He has already given the sign of the risen Jesus?

CLOSING

Luke 11 begins with a disciple asking to be taught to pray and ends with religious experts lying in wait to catch Jesus in His words. In between, the Father promises His Spirit to those who keep asking, the Stronger One overpowers the strong man, and the Light stands in the room. Ask, seek and knock — and let Him who made the outside clean the inside too.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.