



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# What is Wrong with 'This Generation'?

Bible Reading: Luke 11:27-36 (CSB)

Luke 11:27-36 (CSB)

**27** As he was saying these things, a woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the one who nursed you!” **28** He said, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

**29** As the crowds were increasing, he began saying, “This generation is an evil generation. It demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. **30** For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation. **31** The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and look—something greater than Solomon is here. **32** The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at Jonah’s preaching, and look—something greater than Jonah is here.

**33** “No one lights a lamp and puts it in the cellar or under a basket, but on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see its light. **34** Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is also full of light. But when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness. **35** Take care, then, that the light in you is not darkness. **36** If, therefore, your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be entirely illuminated, as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

## Background

### Keeping the Word of God – vv. 27-28 27

- *As he was saying these things, a woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the one who nursed you!” 28 He said, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”*

### Judgment on ‘this generation’ – vv. 29-32

- A. Who is 'this generation'?
- B. They demand signs
1. Jesus response: 'no sign will be given except the sign of Jonah'
- C. The Sign of Jonah
1. The story of Jonah
    1. What do you understand about Jonah? What is your first thought about Jonah?
    2. How was Jonah a sign?
      1. Most think of Jonah as a sign based on Matthew's account  
*Matt. 12:40 For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.*
      2. Luke does not mention this part.
    3. In Luke the sign of Jonah refers to repentance as a response to the word preached.  
**32 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at Jonah's preaching, and look—something greater than Jonah is here.**
      1. Jonah is sent to Nineveh, 120,000 of them, to warn them of coming disaster
    4. In Luke the sign of Jonah refers to repentance as a response to the word preached.
    5. A call for receiving the work and word of Jesus
- D. The Queen of the South
1. The queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10)
    1. Woman of standing, wealth
    2. She herself had knowledge/wisdom; checking out Solomon
    3. Heard about the wisdom of Solomon and went to check it out with questions
    4. Everything about Solomon amazed her, not just wisdom but everything about his life and the life of Israel
    5. She responded "blessed be the Lord your God!"
  2. A call to hear the word and wisdom of Jesus
- E. Two contrasts bring greater judgment
- 31 The queen of the south** will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and **condemn them**, because she came from the ends of the earth to **hear the wisdom of Solomon**, and look—**something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh** will stand up at the judgment with this generation and **condemn it, because they repented at Jonah's preaching**, and look—**something greater than Jonah is here.**
1. It is a call to hear and respond positively to Jesus' word because there will be "the judgment."
  2. Jesus is greater than both Jonah and Solomon and yet they won't listen to him.
  3. Even the Gentiles listened
  4. The emphasis is on properly receiving truth, either the wisdom of Solomon, the preaching of Jonah – or the work and word of Jesus."

## How are their 'eyes'? – vv. 34-36

*34 Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is also full of light. But when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness. 35 Take care, then, that the light in you is not darkness. 36 If, therefore, your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be entirely illuminated, as when a lamp shines its light on you."*

- A. What is a healthy eye?
1. the eye is a lamp not in the sense that it gives light but that through it the body receives light. The body that is our whole being needs light
  2. The real source of light is outside the body
  3. We do not generate our own light
  4. If we try to generate light it is probably darkness that we are generating
  5. Everyone's eye either receives light or closes off the light
- B. What is a bad eye?
1. Unable to receive light

2. Unwilling to receive light
3. No knowing we that we don't see
  - **35 Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. NLT**

C. What/who is the light?

1. Jesus is the light. We know him through the Bible. Will you let the light of God, through his word, come into you?
2. Receiving light so there will be no darkness
  1. Receive and be filled with light (harken back to last week), let yourself be filled with light.
  2. Receive the light, then obey the light = keeping the word
3. Don't be deceived, take care, be sure
  1. Be filled with light, not darkness
    - Go back to 11:28 *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it"*