

YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Luke 11:14-36
Yeshua §109

You and I are accountable for what we believe and the way we live. In fact, all humanity will give account to Jesus for what they believe and how they lived either at the Judgment Seat of Christ or the Great White Throne Judgment.

As in the Fall, it is human nature to shift blame and shirk responsibility as Eve blamed Satan and Adam blamed Eve and God (Gen. 3:11-13). Nowhere was this more on display than at the Nuremburg Trials following World War II.

Superior orders, often known as the Nuremberg defense, just following orders, Due Obedience, or by the German phrase Befehl ist Befehl ("an order is an order"), is a plea in a court of law that a person, whether a member of the military, law enforcement, a firefighting force, or the civilian population, should not be considered guilty of committing actions that were ordered by a superior officer or official.

One of the most noted uses of this plea, or defense, was by the accused in the 1945–1946 Nuremberg trials, such that it is also called the "Nuremberg defense". The Nuremberg trials were a series of military tribunals, held by the main victorious Allies after World War II, most notable for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military, and economic leadership of the defeated Nazi Germany. These trials, under the London Charter of the International Military Tribunal that established them, determined that the defense of superior orders was no longer enough to escape punishment, but merely enough to lessen punishment.¹

“Superior orders” will not work as a defense for that generation of Jews who, following their spiritual leaders, rejected Jesus as an agent of Satan. In our passage today, Jesus calls the *am haretz*, the common people, to think independently from their leadership and see the evidence of His Messiahship.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
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Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
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¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superior_orders

This passage will seem familiar; it reads like Matthew 12 and the Day of Rejection². But these are different events. The man healed on the Day of Rejection was mute and blind (Matt. 12:22). The man in this passage is mute (Luke 11:14). In Matthew, the confrontation is between Jesus and the Pharisees (Matt. 12:24). In Luke, it is between Jesus and the people (Luke 11:15-16). The Day of Rejection took place in Galilee (Matt. 13:1); this event took place in Judea (Luke 11:38; John 11:1)³.

THE ACCUSATION (LUKE 11:14-16)

14 Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. 15 But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” 16 while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.

In the course of Jesus’ final evangelistic tour, He cast out a demon that caused its victim to be mute. The people marveled because the ritual used by their Jewish exorcists required communicating with the demon. This was a miracle no one else could do. It should have convinced them Jesus is the Messiah. But it is clear they are accepting the pharisees’ explanation that Jesus is empowered by Satan.⁴ Others in the crowd dismiss the exorcism as inconsequential and demand a sign from heaven just as the pharisees had done (Matt. 12:38).

Jesus defends Himself against their accusation and calls them to account.

JESUS’ REBUTTAL (LUKE 11:17-23)

17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. 18 And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. 19 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

² “Jesus Rejected”, 10/29/2019

³ Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived in Bethany, in Judea, south of the Mt. of Olives

⁴ **Βεελζεβοὺλ** *Beelzeboúl*; masc. noun, transliterated from the Hebr. *Ba’al Z’ebūb* (1176). Beelzebub, the name properly should be Beelzebul in all NT passages (Matt. 10:25; 12:24, 27; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15, 18, 19). In the OT, Beelzebub meant lord of flies or fly-god (2 Kgs. 1:2) and was in common use among the Jews in Christ’s day as the title of Satan as the prince of the demons.

Zodhiates, Spiros. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000.

21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; 22 but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. 23 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

In short order, Jesus exposes the absurdity of their accusation.

- If Satan is casting out demons through Jesus, then Satan is fighting Satan and his kingdom will not stand.
- The people believe that exorcism is a gift of the Spirit, and assume their exorcists cast out demons by the power of God. For them to accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan is inconsistent with their own theology.
- This miracle is a messianic sign and shows that Jesus is stronger than and not subservient to Satan.

Finally, Jesus calls them to account; to make a decision. Even though the offer of the kingdom to that generation had been withdrawn, still, every person of that generation had the opportunity and needed to decide whether or not to follow Jesus.

Jesus follows His rebuttal with several warnings.

REJECTING MESSIAH WILL HAVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES (11:24-26)

24 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ 25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

The man delivered from the demon serves as a warning. He’s been delivered by Messiah. He needs to follow Jesus and fill his life with Jesus. If he doesn’t, he’s an easy target for Satan. There is no “neutral space” in life. We all have a worldview; we all have a belief system that controls how we live our lives. All belief systems come from somebody. We must choose who we are going to believe. If we reject the teachings of Jesus the Messiah, we are following the teachings of men under the influence of Satan.

After warning the crowd that rejecting Him has dire consequences, a woman cries out a blessing on Jesus' mother.

MISSING THE POINT (LUKE 11:27-28)

27 As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" 28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Here is a woman who cries out a blessing on Jesus' mother. She is interpreting Jesus through the lens of her strong-group, patrilineal, honor/shame culture in which a woman's strongest ties are to her blood brothers and her male children. In Jesus, she sees a strong, spiritual man who is doing his mother proud.

Jesus brushes this aside to make the point that the most important thing is not family, but that people hear and obey God's Word. The most important thing is for people to have a living relationship with God.

These people are in trouble. If they follow the opinion of their leaders, they are going to be swept away by the Roman slaughter of 70AD into eternal condemnation.

BELIEVE IN ME AND ESCAPE THIS GENERATION! (LUKE 11:29-32)

29 When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man 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, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Many believe the sign of Jonah is the resurrection, which is possible. We believe Jonah was a sign of God's judgment to the Ninevites (Jonah 3:4). Following the Day of Rejection, Jesus began to declare judgment on that generation. Despite the evidence of the miraculous exorcism of the mute demon, this crowd, just like

their leaders on the Day of Rejection, are rejecting Jesus. Unless they repent, they will be judged and condemned as part of this generation.

MY TEACHINGS WILL DELIVER YOU (LUKE 11:33-36)

33 “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may 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 it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

The light on the stand is the teaching of Jesus. The eye as the lamp of the body is a person's worldview. A worldview based on the Word of Christ leads to clarity and a life pursuit of what is right and good in the eyes of God. A worldview based on the word of men leads to confusion and a life pursuit of what is wrong and evil in the eyes of God. The crowd to whom Jesus is speaking are accepting the worldview of the pharisees. The worldview of the pharisees rejects what Jesus is revealing through His teachings. Therefore, unless the crowd repents, rejects the teaching of the pharisees and embraces Jesus' teachings, they will continue in darkness and ultimately be condemned with that generation of Israel which rejected Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, our Christian worldview, our Christian faith is under assault like never before. As one of my mentors recently said to me, our government leaders, our media personalities and university professors hate us. They don't just disagree with us, they hate us and want to eliminate our influence. Our government schools are no longer in the business of education, but indoctrination. It is frightening how completely Critical Theory⁵ has been embraced by our educational system that is now rewriting the history of the United States and driving division and hatred between the races.

As the Bible teaches, our minds are the battleground of our spiritual warfare. Now more than ever we need to be Psalm 1 people meditating on God's Word constantly. Parents, I encourage you to give careful thought about keeping your children in government schools. I also challenge you to rethink encouraging your students to attend government colleges and universities. Their purpose is to

⁵ To learn more about Critical Theory: <https://shenviapogetics.com/critical-theory-all-content/>

destroy your student's Christian faith and indoctrinate them naturalism, relativism, the sexual revolution, socialism and now Critical Theory.

Be encouraged and claim this promise from Jesus:

MATTHEW 7:24-27 (ESV)

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”