



WHAT DID JESUS DO? "Jesus Challenged the Religious" Luke 11:14-54

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Stuart Briscoe

Jesus challenged the religious people of His day so strongly that they "began to oppose Him fiercely." He intended that their religion had actually become a substitute for spiritual reality. A charge that requires careful thought by all who take spirituality seriously.

I. What Did Jesus Do?

- A. He countered the arguments of His religious accusers.
 - 1. Their argument—He is using Satanic powers to do His miracles. v. 15
 - 2. His counter-argument—that is a self-defeating proposition.
 - 3. If Satan is attacking Satan, his kingdom will collapse. v. 18
 - 4. But if God is working through me, His kingdom has arrived. v. 20
 - 5. If we get rid of what is **bad** but do not replace it with what is **good**, we run the risk of begin overcome with what is **worse**. vv. 24-26
 - 6. Whose side are you on—if you're not with me, you're against me. v. 23
- B. He confronted the religious fence-sitters.
 - 1. They asked for a sign from heaven, demanding more evidence. v. 16
 - 2. This demand was evidence that they were a "wicked generation." v. 29
 - 3. Jonah and Queen of Sheba were all the signs they needed. vv. 29-32
 - 4. Nineveh responded to Jonah's preaching; Queen to Solomon's teaching.
 - 5. A greater one than Solomon and Jonah is here—you'd better start listening!
 - 6. **"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it."** v. 28
 - 7. The truth is like a lamp set on its stand, not hidden under a bowl. v. 33
 - 8. The ability to perceive truth enlightens the whole life. v. 34
 - 9. "See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness." v. 35
- C. He challenged the religious enthusiasts.
 - 1. They majored on external rituals rather than internal realities. vv. 37-41
 - 2. They tithe to extremes; neglected justice and the love of God. v. 42
 - 3. They basked in their own glory and neglected God's glory. v. 43
 - 4. They led the unknowing and the unwary astray. v. 44
 - 5. They preferred to point the finger than to lift a finger to help. v. 46
 - 6. They would bring cumulative judgment on themselves. vv. 47-51
 - 7. They had objected to the truth and obscured it for others. v. 52

II. What Would Jesus Do?

- A. He would insist that true spirituality is the result of a response to God's truth.
- B. He would insist that fence-sitting is not only uncomfortable, but unacceptable.
- C. He would expose spiritual pride as the worst possible kind of pride.
- D. He would warn against rites and symbols becoming an end in themselves.