

## **The Meaning of Life**

‘A mother and baby camel are talking one day when the baby camel asks, “Mom, why have I got these huge three-toed feet?” The mother replies, “Well, son, when we trek across the desert, your toes will help you to stay on top of the soft sand”. A few minutes later the young camel asks, “Mom, why have I got these long eyelashes?” “They are there to keep the sand out of your eyes on the trips through the desert”. “Mom, why have I got these great big humps on my back?” “They are there to help us store [fat] for our long treks across the desert, so we can go without [food] for long periods”. “Let’s see, we have huge feet to stop us from sinking, long eyelashes to keep the sand out of our eyes and these humps to store [fat for energy]”. “Yes, dear”. “So why are we in the [Saint Louis] Zoo?”’

Why, indeed? You know, we can ask the same question can about ourselves. Depending on our point of view, on what we focus our thoughts on, we can instantly find things to question about our existence, our situations, the injustice of it all! ‘Sally said to Charlie Brown, “We have to write a short piece for school that expresses our personal philosophy. So far I’ve written, ‘Who cares?’ and ‘Forget it’.” Charlie Brown says, “How about ‘Why me?’” Sally says, “That’s good, I’ll fit it in”.’ Charlie Brown asked, “Why

me?” Now how many times have you asked that question yourself. Should I rephrase? How many times *per day* have some of you asked this? Hopefully, we can all truthfully answer, “Hardly ever!” But if we’re honest, we’ve too often thought it. Am I right?

Truth be told, we actually shouldn’t even need to ask it. Because it is actually possible to so well understand the world, to have such insight into how the world and all its creatures work, especially our fellow humans, that, even if we don’t understand everyone else’s problems and issues, we can have a depth of understanding of why they do the things they do so as to have compassion for them like our Lord Jesus does.

When we read the Bible’s holy words, we often don’t take the time to really ponder and search out why people said and did the things they said and did. Do we ever even try to put ourselves into those scenes and gain the understanding and revelation from Holy Spirit He so wants to give us, which will so help us to know Him better, and in the process, fill our hearts with exceeding joy and peace? In the lesson from Luke, once again the Pharisees appear. Why? Luke here doesn’t specifically identify them, but we know from the parallel record in Matthew 12 that these “some in the crowd” were Pharisees. They and their spies were practically everywhere! They just had to keep their tabs on everywhere Lord Jesus went and everything He said. They had their work cut out for them—damage control! For Lord Jesus had a mouth on Him that just said unsavory and undiplomatic things! And He also

did things that could potentially cause so much trouble!!

Here in Luke 11, there was a man who couldn't speak. Lord Jesus discerned that the man's problem was not medical, but spiritual. A demonic spirit living in him prevented him from being able to talk. I'm sure it had a great time getting the man into all sorts of trouble by paralyzing his tongue. Lord Jesus drove out the spirit, and the man's tongue was "loosed" and, suddenly, he could not only make sounds, form words, but talk like he'd been talking all his life! Stupendous miracle! How wonderful for the man!! But "some" in the crowd obviously didn't care about the man's wellbeing one bit. Sounds like today's liberals and democrats! Because these Pharisees tried to spin things in the most negative way possible. "He casts out demons by the power of satan, the demon king". Others just would not believe what they had just seen with their eyes and heard with their ears. Jesus simply could not be the promised Messiah because He wasn't doing and saying things they thought He should. So they "tried to persuade Him to perform a spectacular display of power to prove He was the Messiah". Healing a man who couldn't talk was not spectacular enough? Looks like it wouldn't matter what the Lord said or did. Nothing would convince them. They refused to believe what was right in front of their faces! Doesn't this sound like the liberal left in this country that can't bring itself to see any one thing that President Trump does or says is good for the country?

But here in Luke 11, no matter what the Lord did or said,

they would not believe in Him. Truly, they had “Jesus-derangement syndrome”! Folks, there’s nothing new under the sun. And not just them. But just about the whole world, well, at least the “powers that be”, the elitists, globalists, who think that only they are good enough and smart enough to run the world, nearly every last one of them condemns Israel for every little and big thing Israel does and does *not* do! Israel can’t win for losing! Folks, it’s a disease. The very same disease that the Pharisees had. It’s accurately called, “Willful Unbelief”. No matter the facts, no matter the reality, no matter the signs and wonders God in Christ performs, Lord Jesus can not be the Messiah. And to prove their point, there’s nothing they won’t resort to. Violence? Assassination anyone? If they can’t shut Him up any other way, then kill Him is the way to go. For they can’t afford to allow Him to live because His very existence contradicts everything they are. So, like all tyrants in history, they kill their enemies. Mercilessly!

Well! Truly it ends up well. For those who did believe. Not so the unbelievers. Their ridiculous allegation that the Lord was performing His miracles by the power of the devil was not just insulting, it was the unpardonable sin. For in the record from Matthew, the Lord immediately follows this teaching moment informing the people that there is only one unforgivable sin, and it is this right here: giving “credit” to evil powers, what Holy Spirit has just done. It’s called blaspheming Holy Spirit. And those who willfully do so, fully cognizant of what they’re doing, they’re never going to

Heaven. Can you blame God for slamming Heaven's gates right in front of them? For expelling them from His blessed presence to an eternity in the lake of fire? Who could blame God for giving them exactly the very judgement they deserve? They've said it with their own mouths. They get what they've asked for.

But in Luke 11:27, 'a woman shouted from the crowd, "God bless the one who gave You birth and nursed You as a child!"' And how does Lord Jesus reply? "Yes", said Jesus, "but God will bless **all** who listen to the word of God and carefully obey everything they hear".' So from all this, we begin to see what our life is all about. Well, what it's supposed to be all about. Many in the crowd began to see and understand. But not the bulk of the Pharisees, religious leaders and scribes. Hardly any of them could swallow their pride long enough to actually hear, see and understand what was really happening, Who was really in front of them. The answer to all of life's questions and problems and philosophies, was standing right in front of them. Big as life. Plain as day! But for them, that would be too easy.

Lord Jesus explained what was simply common sense. Starting in verse 33 He said, "No one would think of lighting a lamp and then hiding it in the basement where no one would benefit. A lamp belongs on a lampstand, where all who enter may see its light. The eyes of your spirit allow revelation-light to enter into your being. When your heart is open the light floods in. But when your heart is hard and closed, the light cannot penetrate

and darkness takes its place. Open your heart and consider My words. Watch out that you do not mistake your opinions for revelation-light! If your spirit burns with light, fully illuminated with no trace of darkness, you will be a shining lamp, reflecting rays of truth by the way you live.”

He says in verse 35: “Open your heart and consider My words. Watch out that you do not mistake your opinions for revelation-light!” How open is our heart? Do we take the time to really *consider* His words? Or do we rush things, and just run with the first thoughts that enter our minds? Do we then, “mistake our opinions for revelation-light”? Can we see that doing that is exactly what the Pharisees did? And many of the Jews and rabbis today are still doing? They are so invested in their proclamations that the Messiah has not yet come, that until Lord Jesus hauls them up to His judgement seat, they will refuse to believe, and even blaspheme right in front of His face. For such people are blind. This is what it means to not believe. This is what it means to be stubborn. This is what it means to deny that a preborn baby is a baby. This is what it means to claim that abortion pills are safe. One lie begets another lie, and another lie, until everything such people say and do is lies. And they can’t escape the lies of their own making. The answer our Lord Jesus said plainly: “Open your heart and consider My words”. And revelation-light will flood our souls like a tsunami and clear away all that is dark. Then and only then will we know what it really means to live.

