

Let's Just Get Along

Text : **Luke 11: 14-28**

S#1.

* **Before we start our lesson please quantify your level of service to God.** **S#2.**

1. Pick a number from 0 to 10 with zero being not at all active and 10 being all in.
2. Write that number down on the corner of your bulletin, we'll look at it later.

A. Story of civil war farmer lived on the boarder between the opposing armies. **S#3.**

Draped a Union flag on one side of wagon and confederate flag on the other.
As he went down the road between the armies, both sides cheered.
When he returned, both sides opened fire because he forgot to change flags.
Spiritually, some are like that farmer; they just want to be friends with both sides.

B. We live in an era of extreme polarization.

1. Both political parties have extreme followers. (*Vote for ole yeller dog IF ...*)
2. Some are apathetic and think it is all foolishness. (*stay at home voter*)
3. Others try to stay neutral and just get along with both sides.
 - a. They have friends on both sides and they want to maintain good relations.
 - b. They see good and bad points on both sides so they don't want to decide.
 - c. They enjoy being courted by both sides.

C. In 1967 the Rolling Stones released a song entitled "Sittin' On A Fence." **S#4.**

1. It is about struggling with the decision whether or not to marry and settle down.
2. A word or two in the chorus changes each verse, but basically it says :

I'm just sittin' on a fence
You can say I got no sense
Trying to make up my mind
Really is too hard I find
So I'm just sittin' on a fence

D. All through history many have wanted to remain non-committal.

1. Israel wanted to receive the benefits of God, but wanted to pleasure of idols worship.
2. Joshua admonished them to make up their minds one way or the other.

Josh. 24: 14-15 **Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."** **S#5.**

3. Jesus demands that we be a faithful bride to Him.

S#6.

James 4: 4 – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- D. Jesus makes a more direct, more clear and more definitive statement.**

S#7.

1. **Luke 11: 23** – He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. (no neutral ground)
2. Context of Jesus' statement : (*The scriptures don't record random sayings.*)
 - a. Ended chapter 10 telling Marth to accept that Mary had made the proper choice
 - b. Started chapter 11 teaching His disciples to pray.
 - c. Then He taught the disciple to persevere in prayer.
 - d. Vs. 14 ... He cast out a demon that made a man unable to speak.
 - c. Three kinds of people observed Jesus cast out the demon. (*audience same today*)
 - 1) Some readily believed that He was the son of God. "*Blessed is your mother.*"
 - 2) Some denied Him. "*He's an agent of the devil (beelzebul).*"
 - 3) Some were just interested in entertainment ... "*Show us a sign.*"
3. Jesus affirmed that there could only be one response ... *with Me or Against Me.*

S#8.

With this lesson we will consider the choice which Jesus herein demands.

I. The concept of neutrality is a myth.

S#9.

- A. Those who claim to be neutral in a war in reality are not.**

S#10.

1. History demonstrates that no country has ever been truly neutral.
 - a. The supposed neutral country often seek to profit from both sides.
 - b. Most often the neutral want one side to win, but are unwilling to risk involvement.
2. The U.S. claimed neutrality in WW II, but aided Great Britain. (*the Swiss*)

S#11.

- B. Today, in the secular realm, the government claims to be neutral on religion.**

1. Though neutral, they forbid public displays of the Ten Commandments, crosses, etc.
2. The public school system claimed that they were going to be neutral about religion.
 - a. They forbid any mention of religion, but espouse atheistic propositions. (*ridicule*)
 - b. They teach the big bang theory and evolution as fact and perversion as normal.
3. In many things being externally non-committal does not truly reflect one's mindset.

C. Likewise, many try to practice their “Christianity” in a neutral zone. S#12.

1. They want the advantages of being in Christ, but also want the pleasures of the world
2. **I Cor. 4: 5** – Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait **S#13.**
until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden
in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and
then each man's praise will come to him from God.

II. Jesus affirms two areas in which there can be no neutrality. S#14.
First, one must accept the person of Jesus.

A. Jesus directly affirmed that one cannot be neutral about Him. S#15.

1. **Luke 11: 23** – He who is not with Me is against Me;
2. After 9/11 President Bush made a similar statement.
3. Many were offended by his statement.
4. They said his stance was TOO absolute.
 - a. Today everything is nuanced. (*People want wiggle room on every issue.*)
 - b. “That may be true for you, but others don't see it that way.”

B. People object to the statement of Jesus just as they did when Pres. Bush said it.

1. His statement is unambiguously precise and categorical. (**speaking as sovereign**)
Luke 11: 23 – He who is not with Me is against Me;
2. He allows for no neutral zone or degrees of commitment. *It's purely yes or no.*
3. People don't like absolutes. (*Many deny that absolute truth even exists.*)
4. On the cross, Jesus made a total commitment to save people.
He demands that people make an equally committed response.

C. One must either accept or reject all that Jesus is in His totality. S#16.

1. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. **S#17.**
John 3: 18 – He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe
has been judged already, because he has not believed in the
name of the only begotten Son of God.
2. Jesus is God
II Pet. 1: 1 – Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To **S#18.**
those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours,
by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

3. Jesus (God the Son) is our creator.

Col. 1: 16 – For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **S#19.**

4. Jesus is our Savior.

I John 4: 4 – We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. **S#20.**

5. Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings

I Tim. 6: 14-16 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. **S#21.**

S#22.

D. In order to accept the person of Jesus one must totally surrender to His rule.

1. Jesus only rules our life if we obey Him, i.e., if we consider His will in our daily life.

Luke 6: 46 – Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? **S#23.**

2. The Lordship of Christ extends to the use of our physical body.

I Cor. 6: 20 – ... you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

3. One who accepts Jesus must allow Jesus to live in and through him.

Gal. 2: 20 – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, **S#24.** but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

4. **Luke 12: 8-9** ...everyone who confesses Me before men, ... but he who denies Me ...

III. Secondly, Jesus affirms that one must accept His ministry.

S#25.

S#26.

- A. **Luke 11: 23** – ... and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. (*a figure of harvest*)

B. Jesus used agricultural illustrations because Israel was an agrarian society.

1. **Luke 8: 4-15** ... The parable of the sower.
2. **Matt. 13: 25-40** ... The parable of the tares.
3. **Matt. 21: 28-32** ... The parable of two sons sent to the father's vineyard.

C. Jesus pictures His ministry as gathering the Father's harvest of souls.

S#27.

1. He has done this in other places, e.g.,

Matt. 9: 37 – Then He said to His disciples, " The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

2. He used other agricultural / vocational terms which indicate a gathering.
 - a. "I will make you fishers of men." One who gathers fish from the sea.
 - b. "I am the good shepherd." One who gathers the sheep together.

D. In every way, Jesus identifies Himself as one who gathers.

S#28.

1. **Luke 19: 10** – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
2. **Matt 10: 6** .. He sent his disciples to seek out "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"
3. **Mark 16** .. He instructed us to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation"

E. The church is composed of those who are gathered by Jesus.

1. The very word "church" (Ekklesia) refers to a "called-out assembly."
2. **Acts 2: 47** ... All who are saved are added to that called-out assembly.

S#29.

F. All who are not actively gathering into that called-out assembly are scattering.

1. Jesus allows us no middle ground. **We are either gathering or scattering.**
2. Look at the number you wrote on your bulletin. **What was it ?**
 - a. Most Christians write something between 4 & 6. *View ourselves as average.*
 - b. If 1 is ice cold and 10 is boiling hot, what is 5 ? **It is lukewarm.**
 - c. Jesus says just being average is NOT acceptable.

S#30.

S#31.

Rev. 3: 15-16 – I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. **16** So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

G. Most of us are willing to accept average, but GOD IS NOT.

S#32.

Our relationship with God requires that our lives reflect a zeal and a fervor for His ministry of gathering those who are lost into His church.

CONCLUSION :

A. Salvation is free so it cannot be earned, but Jesus makes certain demands upon the lives of those He purchases with His blood to redeem them from Hell.

S#33.

1. Those who are numbered among His redeemed must accept Him in His fullness.
2. Those who are among his followers must take an active part in His ministry.

B. Rom. 10: 11 – Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

C. Are you gathering with Jesus or do you need to be gathered to Him.

S#34.

S#35. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Luke 11: 14-28**

14 And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed. **15** But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." **16** Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven. **17** But He knew their thoughts and said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. **18** 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 by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges. **20** But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **21** When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. **22** "But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder. **23** He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

24 When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' **25** "And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. **26** "Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women 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, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."