



"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Getting Started

- What does C.S. Lewis's analogy of a "living house" suggest about God's work in us?
- How is this image helpful in thinking about your own spiritual formation?

Digging Deeper

Read Luke 11:24-26

- What does Jesus' teaching on the nature of demonic activity show us about the importance of not giving the devil access to our hearts?
- What are the dangers of leaving certain "rooms" in our hearts closed off to God?
- Why does Jesus emphasize filling an "empty house" with something positive after removing evil?

Read 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.

- Why does Jesus call his generation "evil"?
- Why is Jesus mentioning the story of Jonah here?
- What point is Jesus trying to make to the religious leaders? What are they missing? How are they to learn from the Ninevites?
- Do you have a rhythm of regular repentance?
- What is the significance of the Queen of the South?
- What is the danger of not putting wisdom into practice
- How is Jesus making a similar point with these 2 examples?

Read Luke 11:33-36

33 “No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. 35 See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. 36 Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

- What does Jesus mean when he says, "Your eye is the lamp of your body"?
- How does the metaphor of a lamp relate to the message Jesus is sharing with the crowd?
- How does a "healthy eye" influence the "light" within a person?
- How can someone perceive themselves as having "light" while being in darkness?
- What does it mean to have a "whole body full of light"?

Putting Into Practice

- What are all 3 examples (Jonah and Ninevah, the Queen of the South, and the eye is the lamp) pointing to?
- How do regular repentance and obeying God’s wisdom lead us to having a house that is clean and swept out?

Repentance Worksheet

Check-in with your group to see if they have completed the repentance hand-out. Pray over one another and encourage each person to share with someone the area(s) that God has turned on the light in your heart to see His wisdom in your life.

