

Luke 17.1-19

17.11 Jesus “on the way to Jerusalem” > Continues to Call Followers

Jesus WANTS His Followers live in LOVE > Knows will be TROUBLES

Focus 3 ESSENTIALS of Xtian Life Forgiveness, Faithfulness, Thankfulness

1. Forgiveness vs. 1-6

a. We Should Not Give Offense

v. 1 JESUS said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!”

Jesus was REALIST > Knows all People Sinners who can be Tempted

Jesus combines INEVITABILITY with RESPONSIBILITY

Temptation = Gk = SKANDALA = Bait, Enticement, Lure AND Trap

We Fall Down Spiritually, b/cuz Something leads Sinfully ASTRAY

Possible for a piece of wood to float on top of water

UNTIL THAT WOOD BECOMES FULL OF WATER AND SINKS

// CHRISTIAN WHO SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME IN SIN

We do it when our Actions or Attitudes set a Bad Spiritual Example

COMPLAINING Spirit causes People to become DISCONTENT

Speaking EVIL Words that Unfairly Influences someone’s OPINION

Continuing ARGUMENTS until people become ANGRY

Enticing Someone to commit SEXUAL SIN or join into Juicy GOSSIP

Boasting of our Accomplishments/Acquisitions makes others ENVIOUS

Of Course people are RESPONSIBLE for Sins > but we can TEMPT them

v. 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

Large Round Millstone to ground Grain > too Heavy for Person to Lift

“little ones” = CHILDREN & ANY Follower of Jesus – esp NEWBIES

“Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling”
1 John 2.10

“Nothing apparently so enrages Jesus as someone trying to pry one of His disciples loose from Him”
Dale Ralph Davis

b. We Should Not to Take Offense

vs 1 & 2 Threat to Disciples from OUTSIDE / vs 3 & 4 from INSIDE

v. 3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him

Important not to GIVE Offense OR TAKE Offense

Most Xtians & Churches NOT Believe This > Dare Not Practice It

Grace of God > In that Moment > OPPORTUNITY to REPENT > Restore

We have Spiritual Responsibility show Bros & Sis in X their Fault

Not Goal to EMBARRASS or HURT the Offender > Not Tell them OFF!

Right / Wrong way to REBUKE “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted”
Galatians 6.1

Louis 12th PRISON made List of Enemies > then freed & ENTHRONED

Put RED Cross Next each Name on List > FEAR spread to All NAMED

“The cross which I drew beside each name was not a sign of punishment but a pledge of forgiveness extended for the sake of the crucified Savior, who upon the cross forgave His enemies and prayed for them”

A sin needs to be called a sin in a way that leads to repentance. Do we care enough to confront, and are we godly enough to do it with Christ-like compassion? It takes grace to do this, and do this well. Philip Ryken

v. 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Sequence 1st REBUKE to Fellow Believer, Brother or Sister in Christ

2nd Rebuke leads to REPENTANCE “IF he repents” > Not Qualification

“I do not have to forgive someone because they NEVER Apologized”

Lord’s Prayer “forgive US our debts AS WE forgive our debtors” CURSE

CURSE Yourself? “God, forgive Me like I forgive Others” OR DON’T!

Having BEEN Forgiven I MUST Forgive! God forgives Unconditionally

Forgiveness NOT just for Them > ALSO for YOU! Peace, Joy, Bitterness!

Waiting for Apology some FORGOT, Never Knew, Moved Away, Died!!

Rebuke begins CONVERSATION > Repentance brings CLOSURE

We must NEVER say we Will Not Forgive v. 4 “you MUST forgive him”

3rd REPEATING “7 X’s Day” > Forgiveness NOT based on FEELINGS
 Someone DOES same thing Again/Again Not FEEL like Forgiving Them
 If Someone Does same Thing 7 X’s Day > DOUBT sincere Repentance
 Cyril of Alexandria 400 AD // MEDICAL Doctor: Cares for Sick, Relapse
 Another Disease, Treated you Once, Twice... > No Limit to CARE
 Living Christian Life requires GUTS and GOODNESS!
 POINTS to God > Forgives MORE than 7 times a Day > Like GOD

c. We Should Forgive by Faith

Disciples SHOCKED! > Interrupted Jesus v. 5 Lord, “Increase our faith!”
 7 X’s a Day Forgiveness WAY MORE than I can Do! Impossible!!
 WISE Request – Not ask MORE Obedience, Courage, Compassion, Love
 ALL ARE Needed > Faith needed Always > Our Strength NOT Enough
 “Our help is not in our faith or in the ‘amount’ of our faith but in the Lord to whom faith clings.”
 Dale Ralph Davis

God NOT Looking for GREAT Faith but GENUINE Faith > IN HIM!

6 “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted & planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

More Faith: PROMISES of Father, PARDON of Son, POWER of H.S.

We will Never have GREAT FAITH but can put Faith in GREAT GOD!

WIFE Zulu Chief – S.Africa – Converted to Xtian – Chief NOT Happy

Ordered Wife NEVER return to Church > She went THAT Night!

He Enraged > Dragged Out of Village > Beat her Savagely > Left Dead

Chief > Out to Field next Day “What can your Jesus DO for You NOW?”

Eyes Opened > Answered Softly and Slowly “He helps me Forgive You!”

2. Faithfulness vs. 7-10

Disciples may Overfocus on Transplanting Trees > Different Story...

Also need Faith to do the REGULAR, BORING, ROUTINES of LIFE

v. 7-9 Been UNTHINKABLE in Ancient World & Developing World

2 Filipinos came to ICF Almaty > worked for Wealthy Kazakh family
 Shopped > Cooked > Served > Stood > Cleaned > Ready for Next Meal
 3 X's Day > 7 Days a Week > KZ man held their PPTS > \$ kids in P.I.
 Pastored ICF 10 yrs count on One Hand times Ever Saw that Couple!

v. 10 called "Unworthy" = No Merit > nobody owes them anything
 Servant WAS Profitable > Cared for Master's Fields, Flocks, & Food
 Meaning: "my Master does not owe me anything extra"

Jesus' Reward of His Servants ONLY by Grace, Unmerited, Undeserved
 YOUR FAMILY goes Out to Fancy Restaurant order Tasty Dinner
 Waitress Brings food "I am tired & hungry...can I sit down & eat??"

Many take OPPOSITE Approach > Think of all Things they Do for God!
 Now they Deserve for God to do His DUTY to take Care of Them!
 Like the ELDER Brother in ch 15 > thot he could CONTROL Father!

What is the Right Attitude for Serving the Lord?

Paul: "Doing the will of God from the heart" Ephesians 6.6

Jesus: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" John 14.15

John: "His commandments are not burdensome" 1 John 5.3

David "I delight to do your will, O my God" Psalm 40.8

Xtian Indust R.G. LeTourneau "If you give because it pays, it won't pay"

Martin Luther 1534 "Even though we are in faith...the heart is always ready to boast of itself and say 'After all, I have preached so long and lived so well, and done so much, surely God will take this into account...' I have been preaching grace for 20 years and still feel the old clinging dirt of wanting to deal so with God that I may contribute something, so that He will have to give His grace in exchange for my holiness. Still I cannot get it into my head that I should surrender myself completely to sheer grace; yet this is what I should and must do"

Worlitz, November 24, 1534

We Should Not Give Offense / Not Take Offense / Forgive by Faith

v. 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Jesus calls for RENUNCIATION of ALL Self-RIGHTEOUSNESS

3. Thankfulness vs. 11-19

Next Story very SPECIFIC & VAGUE

v. 11 On way to Jerusalem passing along between Samaria and Galilee.

Destination Not Location > Heading to Jerusalem to DIE

Btwn Samaria / Galilee > ETHNIC and Religious OUTCASTS

v. 12 entered a village, met by 10 lepers / Men? Women? Jew? Gentile?

LEPERS – Ultimate Outcasts, Unclean, Untouchables, No Temple

v. 12 stood @ distance v. 13 lifted voices: “Jesus, Master, have mercy...

He HEALED Leper! NEVER been DONE in all Jewish History!

v. 14 he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

OT Law details Behavior > Stay AWAY! – Lived in Isolation, Rejection

Priest = Chief Medical Officer – Examine, Rituals, Social Reconnection

Luke: ISOLATION > DESPERATION > CONFIDENCE in Jesus!

v. 14 And as they went they were cleansed > All 10 MADE NEW!

ONE Who Came Back” v. 15 1 of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God w/ a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

KERPLUNK at End of Jesus’ Story > Shocks Jewish Listeners

WOKE – Red – Blue – Straight – Conservative – Gay DID RIGHT Thing!

Instead of Going to Priest > Samaritan came to God’s High Priest

Man became PRIEST – getting Direct Access to Father thru Jesus

Received something More Important than New Skin > New SOUL!

9 Declared Ceremonially Clean > 10 Forever Child of God

Often we ENJOY the Gifts but IGNORE the GIVER

Many Parents / Grandparents > Feeling of Give Gifts get Crickets!

Little girl going to party - Mother "be sure to thank hostess" / Comes Home "did you say

thanks?" NO! Why Not?/?/ Girl front of me said thanks, Hostess "don't mention it"/ SO I DIDN'T

Woman walking w Son in Midwest > Suddenly Tornado! Took Son Up!
 Cried to God > Few Seconds Next to Her > Lord, he was wearing a hat!

Ingratitude is a way of saying that God owes us whatever he gives us, and that we owe Him nothing in return...a complete reversal of our real position before God...He owes us nothing, and we owe Him everything. Ingratitude is a direct assault on God's glory. Philip Ryken

17Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

WELL = Gk. 'sozo' word for HEALING AND SALVATION : BOTH!

Same Formula in Luke – Sinful Woman ch 7, Woman w Hemorrhage ch 8

Samaritan HERE – Blind Beggar ch 18 > Needy, Outsiders in KINGDOM

Jesus waits for WORSHIP of HEALED Souls > Often ROBED of It

"Hiding Place" Dutch Christian and family in Nazi Concentration

READ - "in everything give thanks"

Corrie ten boom - to sister - "How can I thank God for the fleas?"

STRUGGLED TO AND DID

Surprised - Great freedom to read Bible and pray in barracks

Later learned why? GUARDS NEVER CAME IN - TOO MANY FLEAS

Samaritan comes to Jesus receives More than Expected – Healed & Saved

Psalm 138 Give Thanks to the Lord - Of David. I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; **before the gods I sing your praise;** I bow down toward your holy temple **and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,** for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. **On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.** All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, **for they have heard the words of your mouth,** and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, **for great is the glory of the Lord.** For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, **but the haughty he knows from afar.** Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; **you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.** The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; **your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. Amen and Amen.**

Pastor Martin Rinkhart "Now Thank we all our God" 1636 / 30 yrs War

40 Funerals DAY! > including WIFE & Family > Hymn Table Prayer

Surrounded by War & Death