

Lesson 17

CHAPTER 17, FORGIVENESS AND THANKFULNESS

As we journey through the teachings of Jesus that Luke records, it is important to determine who Jesus is addressing. The time is short for Jesus and his focus is preparing his disciples to carry the torch of faith after his death. In Luke 17:1-10 Jesus is addressing his disciples.

1. In verses 1-4, what two points is Jesus discussing? Who do you think the “little ones” are? Who have you needed to forgive repeatedly? What does Matthew 6:14,15 say about forgiveness? How does Luke 23:34 relate to this? As we forgive, what does it do for our spirits?

2. If we don't think we have the power to forgive in our own strength, how do verses 5 and 6 encourage us?

3. Verses 7-10 may seem strange because we do not understand the slave culture of the first century. What do you think is our application for these verses? See Colossians 1:10-14.

4. Read Luke 17:11-19. At what point were the lepers healed? What is the lesson of this story? What is the implication that the only one who returned to thank Jesus was the Samaritan? (We can assume the other 9 were Jews since they had to show themselves to the priest). See also 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

5. Read Luke 17:20-37. Who is Jesus addressing according to verse 22? He is comparing the days of the Son of Man (Jesus' return) to Noah and Lot. Read Genesis 6:5-8 which is the story of Noah and Genesis 18:20-33, Genesis 19:29 which is the story of Lot, Abraham's nephew. What do these stories have in common with the verses in Luke? How does Genesis 19:29 encourage you?

APPLICATION: Read Matthew 25:35-40. How are you serving your Master, Jesus? Ask the Lord to reveal ways for you to serve him.

PRAYER: Gracious and glorious Father, you require much from your children because you gave much to them in the form of your Son, Jesus. Give us hearts to serve you and your kingdom. Give us the will to forgive those who have wronged us. Give us ever thankful hearts for all that you have done for us through your Son, Jesus. We praise your holy name. Amen.