



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 48: Giving & Taking Offense - Luke 17:1-10 - October 19, 2025

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - **Forgiveness** as a biblical theme, and forgiveness as critical of the gospel message.

Redemption = “forgiveness of sins” (**Colossians 1:14**)

Christian living - “forgiving one another... as Christ forgave you” (**Ephesians 4:32**)

A. Giving Offense (**Luke 17:1-2**)

“*Temptations are sure to come...*” (v. 1) - every day, in every situation, we are confronted with the opportunity to live our lives in either **sinful** or **godly** ways.

Those temptations are not sin, but often give way to sin, because our hearts are corrupt.

Jesus also shows us that sinful hearts and actions implicate everyone around us!

Worse than giving in to temptation ourselves, is **when we ourselves are temptations** to others!

He actually tells us that it would be **better for us to die** than to tempt others to sin.

“**Pay attention to yourselves!**” (v. 3) - see where **you** are prone to sin or to cause **others** to sin!

B. Taking Offense (**Luke 17:3-4**)

What if we have not sinned, but have been sinned against? What is the biblical response?

It is a threefold process:

1. Rebuke

- Affectionately, not harshly, telling a fellow believer that they are acting in a sinful manner.
- Can you rebuke? It takes courage.
- Can you receive rebuke with confession and contrition? Or will you get defensive?

2. Repent

- Repentance is not sorrow, denial, diminishing, or managing our sin.
- Repentance is **putting our sin to death**, *turning* from it with the intention of not returning.

3. Forgive

- “**Miroslav, but can you embrace (forgive) a cetnik?**” - Jurgen Moltmann
- Forgiveness is more difficult in a world where there is strength in victimhood. Forgiveness might require that you let go of your whole identity as a wounded person.
- How forgiving should our hearts be? (v. 4) - You must forgive him!

C. More Faith? (**Luke 17:5-6**)

The connection between “faith” and “forgiveness” is seen another of Jesus’s teachings in Mark 11 - so it is not a surprise that **the disciples ask for more faith to be able to be obedient** to Jesus’s teaching that they should be more forgiving.

Jesus response: you don’t need more faith! The act of forgiveness is really only something God can do, just like the moving of the Mulberry tree.

Jesus is reminding us that it is **not the size of our faith** that counts, it is the **object of the faith**.

- You don’t need GREAT FAITH in God, you need faith in a GREAT GOD.

D. Less Credit! (**Luke 17:7-10**)

Illustration: think of a **real estate agent or a waiter** at a restaurant

The point is that people should do what they should do within the position they are in!

“Unworthy” = “**unprofitable**” - We are “unprofitable” servants to God - we do not bring anything into his possession that he did not already own.

Gospel: And yet! He is more than a servant doing his duty - he flips the roles of master/servant. His own life will turn this illustration on its head - and it culminates when he FORGIVES US OF OUR SINS - and therefore, we must also forgive others.



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Of all the gifts of the gospel of Jesus Christ - where does "forgiveness of sins" rank?
2. In Ephesians 4:32, what is Paul's reason that we should forgive others?
3. In what ways can we cause others to sin? Are you in danger of doing that in your life? How seriously does Jesus take this idea that we might cause others to sin?
4. Have you ever given or received Christian rebuke before in a way that helped someone repent and be restored? Why does this not happen more often?
5. Who in your life is hardest to forgive? Have you forgiven them? If not, why not?
6. Why do the disciples ask for more faith? And why is that not exactly what they need?
7. Explain the final parable (v. 7-10). How does the gospel message actually reveal that Jesus flips this script?