

Luke 17:1-19 – 16 July 2023

“Grateful For Restoration”

Introduction

*From Chap 10-19a until they enter Jerusalem, Jesus' messages have a time urgency to them

*Chap 14, Jesus spoke at a Pharisee's house of love, humility & grace

*Chap 15, He spoke of receiving the lost back with grace and joy!

*Chap 16 He speaks to His disciples about choosing to prepare for the future

*Now Chap 17 Jesus addresses the need to have a heart that loves it when people are restored to the Kingdom of God

*We should recognize that we must grow deeper in our knowledge, love, grace & faith

So today, let's look at 3 levels of growing into a heart of restoration

1st Level: We recognize that there is a means to restore sinner & restore fellowship (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Let's be careful that we're not hindering other's Christian service
2. 'Offences' = *skandalon* – a trap stick stumbling block
3. To use a fishing analogy, as we're swimming thru life accept that there will be hooks in the water, don't take the bait
 - a. Certainly, don't be the one that set the hook
 - b. Look to be the one that cleans up the water

Read Vs 3-4

1. Now the other direction, if the offence comes against you
2. Notice, it is right to rebuke him – this is clear
 - a. If they repent, forgive – be seeking this
 - b. If no repentance, no restored fellowship

3. Vs 4 isn't speaking of the quantity of forgiveness but a heart of forgiveness
 - a. Read Matt 18:21-22 – Jesus isn't asking us to do math, He asking for a changed heart
 - b. Have a heart that is doing everything to prompt restoration
4. But why forgive? We forgive on the basis that this is how Jesus treated us
 - a. God forgives us as many times as we come to Him – what a glory!

Read Vs 5-6

1. Remember, we don't so much learn from the disciple's questions, so much as Jesus' answers
 - a. They think they need greater quantity of faith to obey what Jesus just taught
 - b. But His answer isn't about *amt of faith* but that the type of faith prompts obedience
2. Read Mar 4:31-32 – It's not about recognizing that our faith is small but that WE are small & in need of God to work His miracle thru us!
3. Now in vss 7-10 Jesus gives an illustration of

2nd Level: We willingly serve together (Vs 7-10)

Read Vs 7-9

1. B/c of the servant's role & position, it's only right to do these things
 - a. Would be unnatural to ***not*** serve the master
 - b. Would be unnatural to ***not*** fulfill position
2. How much greater is our position as sons & daughters of the King?
 - a. We should delight to do his service
 - b. We have an even greater privileged position that deserves our response

Read Vs 10

1. Unprofitable in that they haven't done anything above & beyond what's naturally expected of the job or position
2. This is spoken in context to Jesus' principle to forgive others as needed
 - a. We forgive others b/c it's a part of our new life, it's part of our "job description"

- b. As we accept our new life, we accept our new identity & job description as a son or daughter of the king
- 3. This is also spoken as a general principle for Christian service – well beyond forgiving people
 - a. How many times we hear of someone quitting Christian ministry b/c “it’s a thankless job”
 - b. It’s the reasonable thing to serve the king w/o thx
 - c. If you need a pat on the back as reward for living for Jesus, then you either
 - i. Misunderstand the blessings of our position
 - ii. Or you simply need to cultivate a heart of gratitude
- 4. And that leads us to the final lesson Jesus wants to teach us in the following verses

3rd Level: We're grateful for our position in Christ (Vs 11-19)

Read Vs 11-14

1. The healing method Jesus uses here is just to speak healing
 - a. There is no *method* that works, there's a *Master* to worship
 - b. There is no routine to heal, there's a Healer that isn't routine at all
2. "Go show yourselves to the priests"
 - a. Covered this in Lev 14 and Luk 5
 - b. Priests were to do offering that pictured the resurrection of Jesus as given in Lev 14
3. So all 10 lepers are cured of this incurable disease

Read Vs 15-17

1. Jesus doesn't ask questions b/c He knows not the answer, but to make us ponder the answer
2. Gratitude takes extra time, but it's right

Read Vs 18-19

1. This leper didn't just receive physical healing, but also spiritual healing and new life
2. These lepers would have nowhere to go in a rush except that Jesus healed them
 - a. Now w/ freedom, the 9 choose selfishness
 - b. The 1 used his freedom to worship
3. There's always a way to be grateful – Matthew Henry was once robbed & he wrote that night in his diary
 - a. 1st, I'm thankful I've never been robbed before
 - b. 2nd, I'm thankful that though they took my wallet, they didn't take my life
 - c. 3rd, I'm thankful that though they took my wallet, it wasn't very much
 - d. Finally, I'm thankful that I was the one robbed and not the one doing the robbing

Conclusion

As you think of the unforgiveness & grudges that we so easily leave in our midst, could we not rise to the level of being grateful for how good God has been in blessing us?

- 1. Let's do more than simply recognize that there is a means of restoring fellowship**
- 2. Let's do more than be simply willing to serve together as servants of Christ**
- 3. Let's be grateful for this wonderful restored life in Christ...with a chance to help others**

Here's some tips for being grateful, remember that...

1. This current hardship doesn't happen all the time
2. This current hardship could have cost me more
3. This current hardship hasn't cost me that much
4. This current hardship isn't b/c of my own sin