



Faith To Forgive  
Luke 17:1-10  
Bushawn Carpenter  
December 7, 2020

I. Intro

A. Text: **Luke 17:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. (Luke 17:5-6)*

II. Body

A. Opps For Offense Are Inevitable, Yet Avoidable

*<sup>1</sup> And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come. (Luke 17:1)*

1. Temptations to sin (ESV) = Offense (KJV)
  - a. Offense (skandalon #4625): a movable trap, an impediment placed in the way to cause someone to stumble, the thing that draws one into error (sin), that which cause one to trust one who is otherwise trustworthy.
  - b. Offense is a trap. **(Photo)**
  - c. This is the believer who is caught in offense. **(Photo)**
2. Offense is an equal opportunity employer.

*<sup>1</sup> And he said to his disciples, "[Offenses] are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come. <sup>2</sup> 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. (Luke 17:1-2)*

- a. Sure to come. No discrimination
3. But Jesus promises get-back on the one who brings about offense (trap).
  - a. Rom. 12:19: <sup>19</sup> Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

- 
- b. It's God's place to protect and avenge.
  - 4. Little One's Posture
    - a. We were called to vulnerability, accessibility and humility in the face of potential offense.
    - b. Self-protection rejects the justice of God and exalts SELF in the rightful place of God.
    - c. In place of God (who we see as inadequate), we often erect a god of our own liking.
    - d. Give God His proper, vengeance is mine...

#### B. Offense Calls For Courageous Response

*<sup>3</sup> Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins [against you], rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, (Lk. 17:3)*

- 1. Rebuke (Confront)
  - a. Takes great courage to step out and do this.
  - b. Takes great persistence.
  - c. Pursue them anyway (like Jesus Pursues).
  - d. Rebuke for repentance.
  - e. Pursue. Pursue some more. Pursue even more!

#### 2. Release (Forgive)

*<sup>3</sup> Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins [against you], rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, <sup>4</sup> and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." (Lk. 17:3-4)*

- a. Forgive (apheimi #863): to send away, to release, to let go.
- b. In the Kingdom, Forgiveness Is Without Measure
- c. Limited Forgiveness is the Mark of Another Kingdom.
- 3. Reconcile
  - a. Forgiveness occurs the moment the one wronged releases it.
  - b. Jesus forgave us on the front end.

- 
- c. He did it on the cross before we were thinking about Him.
  - d. But reconciliation only comes through repentance (which requires an encounter).
  - e. God isn't satisfied with distant forgiveness.
  - f. He pursued us, reconciled us, and has given us the same ministry of reconciliation (**2 Cor. 5:18**)

### C. Dealing Rightly With Offense Requires Faith

<sup>5</sup> *The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5)*

- 1. What God has called us to, is bigger than what we can accomplish on our own strength.
  - a. The standard that he calls us to in forgiveness, has only been met by Him and can only be met by Him.
- 2. The apostles immediately saw that they were lacking; so they appealed to the only One who could supply their need.

<sup>6</sup> *And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. (Luke 17:6)*

- a. If you only walked by faith.
- b. Mustard Seed Faith: Phrase seen in **Matt. 17:20**, when the disciples couldn't cast out the demon from the little boy.

### III. Conclusion

#### A. Forgiving Is The Least You Could Do

<sup>7</sup> *"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? <sup>8</sup> Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup> Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> 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.'"* (**Luke 17:7-10**)

- 
1. Jesus set the standard for dealing with offense when He died on the cross.
    - a. He will not lower it.
    - b. He absolutely holds us to it.
    - c. That'll take great faith
  2. Now when we forgive like this, it is not seen by God as some exemplary act that we should be praised for.
  3. When we forgive, we've only done what was our duty.
    - a. C.S. Lewis Quote **(Photo)**
    - b. If you are a believer, you've been radically and scandalously forgiven (released).
    - c. You've been commissioned to offer that same radical and scandalous forgiveness to others.