



June 30, 2024

The Doable Duty

Luke 17:1-10

Three Short Teachings

Be faithful and forgiving: v.1-4

- Stumbling blocks, bait-stick of a trap, tempt to sin, or cause to fall away
- *Little ones*: literal children, young believers, or all believers
- *Rebuke*: communal responsibility to watch out for stumbling block scenarios
- Forgive over and over

A little faith can do the impossible: v.5-6

- *Mustard seed*: proverbial for very small
- *Mulberry Tree*: *sycamine* tree, sycamore-fig, or fig-mulberry; deep-rooted
- An interesting problem: universal low-faith image

The dutiful servants: v.7-10

- *Unworthy*: unnecessary, deserving no merit or gain

Seeking to Find a Thread That Holds the Three Teachings Together

Such faithful living and prolific forgiveness-giving sounds hard! (1-4)

Increase our faith to be able to do this! (5-6)

Jesus' response: the smallest unit of faith can do the impossible

Implication: you already have more than enough faith to do what I am asking you to do

The gas analogy to illustrate

And when you do this (seemingly heroic) hard thing, don't expect applause (7-10)

This is your baseline duty, not some form of extraordinary Christianity

The Spirituality of Powerlessness

Apart from Me you can do nothing: **John 15:5**

Let us be careful of "waiting for power to do what we should" or "hiding our talent in the ground"

For this commandment is not too hard for you: **Deuteronomy 30:11**

Setting ourselves to the task is itself the sufficient faith (what it means to be faithful)

Pay attention to yourselves! (not a spirit of fear but of self control! **2 Timothy 1:7**)

Paul's assertion that power is made perfect in weakness: **2 Corinthians 12:9**

For it is God Who is at work within us: **Philippians 2:12-1**

Just do it!