

“Showing Faith in the Son of Man” – Luke 17:1-19

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to John 8:2-11

I know that might seem like an out of place scripture to start but it will make sense as we get into our study later. We are going to finish today a section in what is known as the “Travel Discourses” that started way back in chapter 9...

Luke 9:51

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem...

This will continue until chapter 19 at his “Triumphant Entry” into Jerusalem that will begin His Passion to die for the sins of the world.

The discourse we will finish today began in...

Luke 15:1-2

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Then the three parables of those sinners that they despised that had repented and then some teachings on how we are to handle money, that which the Pharisees had put their trust in...

Luke 16:14

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.

That brought us to last week as Jesus shares a story of what will happen to those who die having only trusted in their works to save them. This was Jesus trying to get their attention as he loves them and does not want them to go there. Today Jesus is going to turn and teach the Disciples the difference between what the Pharisees taught and Pharisees as individuals. We must make sure we are not causing people to sin and how should we treat people caught up in sin.

Luke 17:1

Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!”

The word for offences is “Skandalon” and means a trap or stumbling block. Jesus is saying that it is impossible to remove all of them but let us not be like the Pharisees, whose teaching

is of works. We are to be those that do not block the way of salvation to anyone.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

You and I are to watch ourselves and our witness to the world that we are not making it impossible for other to come to Christ. Yes, Jesus delivers us from our old behaviors but that is not how someone comes to Christ. Let's be careful that we do not get the cart before the horse.

Romans 16:17

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

We need to be careful that we are not putting a legal standard on people. If we are making people believe that it takes anything more than faith in Jesus to be saved, we are putting up stumbling blocks. This is why Jesus says this...

Luke 17:2

It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Here we see a play on words. Verse 1 the word is a noun but here it is a verb. We need to make sure our own actions are not causing anyone to sin.

Romans 14:21

It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

One of the ways we do that is through forgiving our brother...

Luke 17:3-4

“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

What does that look like? I brought this up in my * update. Do we take his word for it? Yes, we do. And what about Erika Kirk? * We know our president said he doesn’t forgive him but that just shows where both their hearts are at.

Matthew 18:35

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Remember the parable of the big debt that the master forgave his servant? What did he do? He went found someone with a much smaller debt and threw him in debtor's prison! What happened to the guy? That's right, we do not want that to happen to us! But the Apostles see the impossibility of it and say...

Luke 17:5

And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

“Listen Jesus, we hear you, but that's not possible without more faith”. How does Jesus answer...

Luke 17:6

So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.”

Jesus is making a plain statement that it is not how much you have. We all have it. But what you do with it. Remember...

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Erika acted out her faith. It is when your heart and your mind collide to do what Jesus has told us to do. See it described in the parable...

The Parable of the Unprofitable Servant

Luke 17:7-10

This is why Romans says...

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Fatih is acting on what you know even though you don't know the outcome. Jesus told you to forgive and you simply act on it even if you don't feel like it. Obedience is not works when it is mixed with faith...

James 2:17

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

And just so we don't start thinking that works and obedience are part of Salvation we have this story next...

Ten Lepers Cleansed

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus, on His way to Jerusalem made a way through Samaria. This was an area that the Pharisees would never go through. Samaritans were half breeds and considered outside of the providence of God and could not be saved. Also, lepers were considered by them to be cursed by God, and they figured because they had some sin in their life. That is not how God sees them and that is why Jesus heals them. Now leprosy in the Bible is a type of sin. It is an incurable disease that desensitizes the extremities to the point of disablement. Just like our sin nature. The more you sin the more you are desensitized to it. And before you know it you are disabled and paralyzed by it. In the Law it says...

Leviticus 13:45-46

“Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ He shall be unclean. All the days he has

the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.”

Notice Jesus tells them to go to the priest and as they go (An act of faith!) they are healed. Now there is a provision in the law for the healing of the leper on the day of his cleansing. As far as we know this has never been done. At least not recorded in the Bible. Can you imagine it? The priest has to inspect the one that's healed and isolate them seven days before they even get to the sacrifice part. All the time hearing from them that it was Jesus that healed them. Wow! What a testimony!

But notice who comes back? The Samaritan! He has no priest to go back to. He would not even be allowed on the temple property as he is considered worse than a gentile! Jesus commends him as he acted on his faith by praising Jesus for what He has done. Why do we act on our faith? Because of what God has already done for us.

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 3:23

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.