

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"4 ASPECTS OF DISCIPLESHIP" | LUKE 17: 1-10 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

If you could have any famous person be your mentor or life coach, who would you want?

"The Perils of Sin" (Luke 17: 1-3)

Jesus says temptations to sin are sure to come, meaning it's unavoidable and therefore the strategy to avoid temptation doesn't work, so people should resist it. **How can Christ followers develop a lifestyle of resisting sin instead of living in a bubble?**

"The Practice of Forgiveness" (Luke 17: 3-4)

Jesus says to confront people in sin and to forgive people every time, which Pastor Brian unpacks by saying "you can't be too afraid to correct and too resentful to forgive." **What is difficult about correcting? Forgiving? What helps people in these areas?**

"The Power of Faith" (Luke 17: 5-6)

Jesus says it only takes a tiny amount of faith to see amazing miracles, which Pastor Brian shows it's because it's really not about how much faith someone has but what their faith is in. **Why does the object of faith matter more than the amount?**

"The Posture of a Servant" (Luke 17: 7-10)

Jesus explains that just like servants don't get special honor for doing their job, neither should His followers expect special honor for being obedient. In other words, His disciples are to be humble. **How difficult is it to be obedient and not get praise? Why?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus expects His disciples to be obedient, resisting sin and forgiving others while having faith and humility. The great thing is as a teacher/mentor He models all these things perfectly and empowers His followers as He walks with them to become like Him.

Which of these aspects of Discipleship is one you want help with? What is one way you can improve in that area this week? Pray and ask Jesus to give you strength and humility to be obedient as you follow Him.

4 Aspects of Discipleship

I. Announce:

- A. Slide1-6 Lar: Xmas. Holiday hours. C@R. Mission Prayer. Camps Sp. BCC.
- B. Slide7 Introduce Jen, Property Update: We have a *property update* this morning that we are excited to share with you. I thought it would be best presented by the person who literally put the most *time, blood, sweat, & tears* into it to bring it from its purchase to its sale. Jennifer Bursch if you haven't met yet started as our lawyer 16 years ago, but quickly grew into a great friendship over the years. She is the Head of Schools for our Day School. Here at the church, she manages our finances and operations as our Executive Director. She is a member of both the Church Board and the CMCS Board. Please welcome Jennifer Bursch.
- C. Next 2 Wed Nights: This Wed 21st, "*The Miracle of the Manger*". Next Wed Dec 28 Worship/Prayer Service. Also don't miss Jan.1 looking Back on 2022 and highlighting all he has done through CM. And New Years Encouragement.
- D. Prayer:

II. Slide8 Intro: 4 Aspects of Discipleship

- A. We are all influenced today buy some type of **life coach**, some **teacher**, or **Podcaster**, or **News Anchor**. My favorite is Dr.Rick / Progressive Commercials.
- Slide9 He tries to train his disciples regarding the pitfalls of their parents.
 - Great scenes: In a restaurant he tells them, "*The waitress doesn't need to know your name.*" Or, when he's standing in the one guy's kitchen (who hired a plumber, who is now under the sink). And the homeowner, acting like his father, is trying to give him advice how to fix it. To which Dr. Rick reminds him, "*remember you hired him.*"
- B. Slide10a So the question is, **Who** is discipling you?
- C. There is a voice amongst all of these other voices, unlike any other voice. The primary voice for the life of a disciple of Jesus, must be *Jesus*.

1. Only **He** speaks with divine authority, **words of life** about the most important things of life.

D. Lk.6:40 Jesus said that *a disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

1. It's important who you listen to, because you'll become like that person you are following.

E. We used to say *Sermonettes for Christianettes* (because we wanted longer to preach). **But** this morning we have **4 Sermonettes** Jesus gives here.

1. **Slide10b The Peril of Sin. The Practice of Forgiveness. The Power of Faith. The Posture of a Servant.**

III. Slide11a **THE PERIL OF SIN (1-3a) READ**

A. (1) Jesus is back to speaking to his **disciples** (throughout Luke, he spoke to: *the crowds, religious leaders, or his disciples*).

B. **We are going to look at the 4 Aspects of Discipleship.** They are short, concise, almost in proverbial like manner.

1. The common thread, through these 4 aspects of discipleship pertains to **our basic walk with the Lord and our walk with one another**, as we learn how to **live-out the Gospel in Community**.

C. **Temptations to sin** - or offenses, occasions to stumble, or stumbling blocks.

1. It originally referred to the stick that tripped a snare or a trap.

D. **Beware of traps that will be laid for you:** they may look like ...

1. **Slide11b Intellectual traps** - wanting you to doubt Christian beliefs.

2. **Cultural traps** - the influence of pop-icons that might lure you away to ungodliness.

3. **Commercial traps** - how much advertisement is all about temptation. An ad for Vegas said, *"Just the right amount of wrong."*

4. **Relational traps** - **friends** that are seeking to pull **you** away from **Jesus**.

5. **Church Traps** - spiritual leaders that lead people astray because they compromise the truth. **Or** have a very domineering leadership style.
- E. **Temptation** itself isn't sinful **but** it leads us into it. James 1:14,15 *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*
1. So Jesus wants his disciples to **be on guard**. **Beware**. **We are at war**.
And wherever we go in this world we will not be able to escape this reality of temptation.
- F. Many people want to *move somewhere* to get away from this. That may look like leaving Urban and going rural. **But** what they find out is that **sin** isn't just out there it was **in here** (heart). **You cannot be insulated enough to remove yourself from temptation.**
1. **Slide12** The church father **Jerome** (Latin Vulgate trans) wrote about going out into the desert and while he was out there, *as a monk*, he wrote about *how much temptation he had, his body burned with passionate desires for sexual sin.*
 2. **You cannot escape this world of temptation.** It is inevitable, **So we must be on our guard!**
 3. Flee sin, flee sexual immorality. **And the best way we must fight this Slide13a temptation is with a deeper delight in Christ.** **Because** it's not just about saying *no to sin*, it's about saying *yes to Christ!*
- G. (1b) Then he shifts to tell them to **avoid to entice others to sin**, *but woe to the one through whom they come.*
- H. Paul talks about the weaker brother and the stronger brother, where he exhorts the stronger to **not stumble** the younger.
- I. **There are all kinds of ways you can influence others towards sin.**
1. Like the parent that isn't giving any spiritual direction for their child. **Or** when their child gains a spiritual interest and they downplay it. And tell them it's not very important. **Or** it could come from a spouse, *you don't*

need to attend church. Or it can come from a boyfriend who mocks girlfriends faith. Or he pushes her towards sexual immorality.

a) How many teens, young adults, older adults have been led away from Jesus because of an ungodly relationship?

2. It also could come from a church member or a friend. Also one complaint could cause another to become discontent. Or one occasion, where one speaks unfairly about another person can wrongly influence the other person or persons opinion of them. Or a friend leading you to go to places you shouldn't go, or to say things you shouldn't say.

3. Are you causing others to sin?

J. Slide13b (2) It's better to put on a millstone-necklace and jump off the Oceanside Pier, than to lead someone astray. [fit for concrete shoes]

1. Another place Jesus says, *if your right eye offends you, do what? Right hand?* Basically take sin seriously!

2. Leaders, teachers, parents. Anyone leading young ones, or young believers. Let this speak to you!

K.(3) Now personal responsibilities to the disciples. *Pay attention to yourselves!*

1. This present imperative verb that Jesus uses, means to constantly watch yourself.

a) Slide14 Paul said to Timothy in 1 Tim.4:16 *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.* (then he adds) *Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.* [Jesus warns us because he loves us]

L. He's going to be sending out the disciples to teach and lead His Church very soon. And he wants them to know: *Temptations abound. Don't entice anyone into sin.* And wants them to *Stay on guard against temptation.*

1. And He's after that for **our lives** as well. It's a call to personal holiness.

IV. Slide15 THE PRACTICE OF FORGIVENESS (3b-4) READ

- A. Jesus now follows the teaching on *the perils of sin* with *the practice of forgiveness*, and the need to assist other believers in their Christian walk.
1. **2 things**: if your brother sins *in general* rebuke him, and then if he sins against you (4).
- B. **First** thing he tells them is **rebuke/correct** them.
1. **Have courage** to confront instead of looking the other way. This is not about becoming *the righteous police, or busybodies, or meddlers*.
 2. **Also** Make sure there's *no log in your eye*, to deal with a speck in someone else's.
- C. **Next** is *if they sin against you*. What should you do? a) Take it to the leaders of the church? b) ignore it? c) talk about the person behind your back? Or d) go to the person? :)
1. And if they repent, **forgive them**, **that's our responsibility**. It also doesn't have limits, **7 times in a day**. We continue to forgive them when they repent.
 2. Of course this is **very easy to listen to**, and very hard to do. C.S. Lewis said, *We all agree forgiveness is a beautiful idea, until we have to do it*.
- D. **Slide16a** There's a dual challenge going on here. You can't be too afraid to **correct**, but you can't be too resentful to **forgive**.
1. **We need help**. But the good news is we have it! **Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit as our Helper**.
- E. **Now**, in other scriptures, there are qualifications for forgiveness. **Forgiveness** doesn't mean there are *no consequences for our actions*. But what Jesus is dealing with here is *the need to be ready to forgive a fellow brother/sister in the Lord*.
- F. This is an **important theme** all through Luke, it's even embedded in the Lord's Prayer, *forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us*.
- G. **Slide16b** We are to imitate the Lord's forgiveness. Neh.9 *"You are a God who stands ready to forgive."* [He is more ready to **forgive** than we are to repent]
1. **Slide16c** "**Forgiveness** should be a **habit** not a **battle**."

H. What is it to biblically forgive? *It's to hold a sin against a person, no more!* RC Sproul

V. Slide17a THE POWER OF FAITH (5,6) READ

- A. If this is following, *as it seems to be*, they must be thinking that it would take **great faith** to forgive.
- B. It's assumed that they have faith, because they're asking for an **increase** of faith.
1. Slide17b But instead of saying **increase our faith** how about **increase our love?**
- C. Jesus gives them a great image, **a little mustard seed** (he's already used in Lk.13).
1. But the issue isn't w/the **quantity** of your faith, but the **presence** of **real faith**.
 2. If you have **genuine faith** in the **right object** then **surprising things can happen**. And they are looking at the object of their faith when they make this request (**Lord**).
 3. And Jesus did take their **mustard seed faith** and did remarkable things with it.
- D. If somebody says, *I wish I had your faith*, simply respond. *You don't need my faith. You need my Savior.* That's where the power of faith resides.
- E. See if you have **genuine faith**, *whether small or great*, you get the same **Christ**.
1. eg. The Israelites had **faith** to walk through that Red Sea (OT picture of deliverance/salvation). You just know, some of those Israelites went through it all confident (chest out). And you also know some must have been **scared to death** walking through that sea. **Who got delivered/saved? Both of them.** Those with **great faith** & those with **mustard seed like faith**.
- F. Do you have **faith in the right object?** It looks like clinging to God day by day. It's resting beside still waters in Christ strength. **It's trust in Jesus until you see Jesus.**

VI. Slide18 THE POSTURE OF A SERVANT (7-10) READ

- A. I think this 4th section is important because, *if you're avoiding **temptation**, practicing **forgiveness**, and seeing things happen because of your **faith** ... your heads could swell!*

1. Jesus gives him this parable to take care of “*Hot Stuff Syndrome*”.
 2. **See**, when you serve Jesus, it’s actually a **privilege**, and you’re **just doing your job**.
 3. It’s an interesting parable in our day and age where everybody wants to hand out a **medal** for everything, or **trophy** or **applause**.
- B. **We can’t read this as an excuse to be harsh/ rude towards others.**
1. **Jesus** is simply making a point *we are unworthy servants*.
 2. **John the Baptist** said, *I am unworthy to untie his sandals*.
- C. **3 rhetorical questions:** *no, yes, no*.
- D. (7) **No**. After reading vs.7 we hear *servants didn’t only have one job*. It was part of his **job description** to prepare the meal.
- E. (8) **Yes**. You go from your **outside** work, to your **inside** work.
- F. (9) **No**. He was not to receive *special recognition or praise*.
- G. (10) **And now the principal**. No **Medal** on a **Monday**, no **Trophy** for going to work on **Tuesday**. **Nope**, you’re simply doing your job. [Jaya, you are my special duty!]
- H. **Slide19 So our basics for discipleship:** Beware of **temptation**. **Do not lead** others into sin. **Rebuke sin** properly when you see it. **Forgive** the repentant. Have **faith** that will do surprising things in this world. **And Serve** God because it is your *special duty and privilege*.
- I. **Keywords:** service, faith, sin, forgiveness.