

**Session 17: Forgiveness, Commitment, and Mission of Jesus Followers**

**Matthew 18:6-18; Mark 9:38-50; Luke 9:49-10:24**

**Jesus Warns Against Being a Stumbling Block and Rebukes John**

<b>Matthew 18:6-14</b>	<b>Mark 9:38-50</b>	<b>Luke 9:49-50</b>
<p><i>6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stumbling Blocks</p> <p><i>7 Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; nevertheless, woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!</i></p>	<p><i>38 John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to hinder him because he was not following us."</i></p> <p><i>39 But Jesus said, "Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me.</i></p> <p><i>40 "For he who is not against us is for us.</i></p> <p><i>41 "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name because you are of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.</i></p> <p><i>42 "And whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.</i></p> <p><i>43 "And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled,</i></p>	<p><i>49 And John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to hinder him because he does not follow along with us."</i></p> <p><i>50 But Jesus said to him, "Do not hinder him, for he who is not against you is for you."</i></p>

<p><b>8</b> <i>“And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than, having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire.</i></p> <p><b>9</b> <i>“And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into the fiery hell.</i></p> <p><b>10</b> <i>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.</i></p> <p><b>11</b> <i>["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.]</i></p> <p><i>The Parable of the Lost Sheep</i></p> <p><b>12</b> <i>“What do you think? If any man has one hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?</i></p> <p><b>13</b> <i>“And if it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.</i></p> <p><b>14</b> <i>“In this way, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.</i></p>	<p><i>than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,</i></p> <p><b>44</b> <i>[and where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]</i></p> <p><b>45</b> <i>“And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell,</i></p> <p><b>46</b> <i>[and where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]</i></p> <p><b>47</b> <i>“And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell,</i></p> <p><b>48</b> <i>where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.</i></p> <p><b>49</b> <i>“For everyone will be salted with fire.</i></p> <p><b>50</b> <i>“Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”</i></p>	
--	---	--

**Treatment of a Brother Who Sins (Matthew 18:15-18)**

- 15 *"Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault, between you and him alone; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*
- 16 *"But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.*
- 17 *"And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as the Gentile and the tax collector.*
- 18 *"Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.*
- 19 *"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.*
- 20 *"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."*

## Forgiveness

- 21 *Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*
- 22 *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

**Jesus Travels to Jerusalem Through Samaria (Luke 9:51-56)**

- 51 *Now it happened that when the days for Him to be taken up were soon to be fulfilled, He set His face to go to Jerusalem;*
- 52 *and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him.*
- 53 *But they did not receive Him, because He was journeying with His face toward Jerusalem.*
- 54 *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"*
- 55 *But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of,*
- 56 *for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."] And they went on to another village.*

**The Commitment of Jesus Followers (Luke)**

<b>Matthew 8:19-22</b>	<b>Luke 9:57-62</b>
<p><i>19 Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."</i></p> <p><i>20 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."</i></p> <p><i>21 And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."</i></p> <p><i>22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."</i></p>	<p><i>57 And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go."</i></p> <p><i>58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."</i></p> <p><i>59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."</i></p> <p><i>60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."</i></p> <p><i>61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord, but first permit me to say farewell to those at home."</i></p> <p><i>62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."</i></p>

**The Mission of the Seventy**

<b>Matthew 9:36-38</b>	<b>Luke 10:1-24</b>
<p><i>36 And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.</i></p> <p><i>37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."</i></p> <p><i>38 "Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."</i></p>	<p><i>1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.</i></p> <p><i>2 And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."</i></p>

**Matthew 10:16**

16 *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves."*

**Matthew 10:7-13**

7 *"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

8 *"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

9 *Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts,*

10 *or a bag for your journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.*

11 *"And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay there until you leave.*

12 *"Now as you enter the house, give it your greeting.*

13 *"And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.*

14 *"And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you leave that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.*

15 *"Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.*

**Matthew 11:21-23**

21 *"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*

3 *"Go! Behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

4 *"Carry no money belt, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the way.*

5 *"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.'*

6 *"And if a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him, but if not, it will return to you.*

7 *"Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.*

8 *"And whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat what is set before you;*

9 *and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'*

10 *"But in whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say,*

11 *'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off against you; yet know this, that the kingdom of God is at hand.'*

12 *"I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.*

13 *"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.*

14 *"But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you.*

**22** *“Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.*

**23** *“And Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.*

#### **Matthew 11:25-27**

**25** *At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.*

**26** *“Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.*

**27** *“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and*

**15** *“And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades!*

**16** *The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me. And he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”*

The Joyful Results of the Mission

**17** *Now the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”*

**18** *And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

**19** *“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.*

**20** *“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”*

**21** *At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, “I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.*

**22** *“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”*

**23** *And turning to the disciples, He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see,*

<p><i>anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.</i></p> <p><b>Matthew 13:16-17</b></p> <p><i>16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.</i></p> <p><i>17 "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.</i></p>	<p><i>24 for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them."</i></p>
--	--

### **Memory Verse:**

*And John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to hinder him because he does not follow along with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not hinder him, for he who is not against you is for you."*

*Luke 9:49=50*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Has God moved enough in your life that if He had done it in Sodom and Gomorrah, they would have repented?
2. When there are problems that come up in church or simply as a believer, do you use Matthew 18 principles to settle it? What is your process and is it a Godly process?
3. What is the direction of "your face"? Are you so determined to obey the Lord and His will that you don't let others bother you?
4. How sold out are you to the cause of saving this lost generation? What would you need to give up to truly make a ripple of faith in your community?