

## LESSON 16: Concerning Offenses, Faith, and Service

# Luke 17:1-10

November 24, 2021

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## Often Asked Questions About Forgiveness:

### Barriers to Forgiveness.

#### ➤ Bitterness.

- Physically, bitterness can lead to health and stress problems.
  - Bitterness will destroy you! (cf. Ecclesiastes 8:14)
- Spiritually, it is a poison that can prove fatal to the Christian.
  - Bitterness is a word associated with taste, but here it is used to accent a feeling.
  - Bitterness can be overcome; the Bible never tells us to do the impossible ("put away ALL bitterness").

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## Often Asked Questions About Forgiveness:

### Barriers to Forgiveness.

#### ➤ Bitterness.

- Bitterness keeps bad company; it very well could be an umbrella word for the other negative feelings in the verse ("*wrath, anger, clamor*").
  - Antidotes for bitterness are kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness ("*Be*").

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## Often Asked Questions About Forgiveness:

### Barriers to Forgiveness.

#### ➤ Pride.

- He whose pride will not suffer to go to one whom he has offended and repent and plead for forgiveness ... His pride will hinder him from admitting his guilt of trespasses before God without which he cannot be forgiven of God. (1 John 1:8-10)
- He who refuses to forgive because of pride has no forgiveness of God. "*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*" (Proverbs 16:18), and "*a man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit*" (KJV Proverbs 29:23).

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## Often Asked Questions About Forgiveness:

### How do we learn and cultivate true forgiveness?

- Those in danger of falling victim to bitterness would do well to study these verses in this light.
  - Contagious. Hebrews 12:15
  - Remember, how greatly God has forgiven us! Ephesians 4:31-32, "*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.*"

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## Often Asked Questions About Forgiveness:

### How do we learn and cultivate true forgiveness?

- Ephesians 4:30-32, "Bitterness in the heart makes us treat others the way Satan treats them, when we should treat others the way God has treated us. In His gracious kindness."  
(The Bible Exposition Commentary)

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## Often Asked Questions About Forgiveness:

How do we learn and cultivate true forgiveness?

- Ask God to assist and help us. Matthew 6:12
- Practice by praying for the offender. Matthew 5:44
- Develop an understanding heart. Proverbs 8:5
- Cultivate compassion and mercy. Matthew 5:7
- Care enough about others to help them maintain righteousness in their lives. (Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15).

- A little girl was asked to define forgiveness. She said in substance, "I don't know the definition, but it is like this: when you crush a rose, the only resistance it offers is a sweet fragrance."

## Conclusion

### Take it or leave it !

Matthew 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

LESSON 16: Concerning Offenses,  
Faith, and Service

*"Lord, Increase Our Faith"*

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## What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

- "Now faith is assurance of (things) hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." ASV

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

Faith (*pistis*) "is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ: Hebrews 11:6" (Thayer)

## What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

### Substance

- (*hupostasis*) "a setting or placing under; thing put under, substructure, foundation" (Thayer)
- "That which provides the basis for trust and reliance" (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)

## What Is Faith? Hebrews 11:1

### Evidence

"(*elengchos*) a proof of the things we cannot see or evidence that what we cannot see really exists – Hebrews 11:1" (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

### Faith That God Exists Is Based On Evidence – Hebrews 11:1, 6

- The evidence of the material world, Hebrews 11:3; Romans 1:20
- Evidence is before us:
  - *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork"* Psalms 19:1

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### Faith That Jesus Is The Son Of God Is Based On Evidence

- John 2:1-11 – Changed water to wine
- John 4:46-54 – Healing of nobleman's son 20 miles away.
- John 5 – Healing of the afflicted man who had been infirm thirty-eight years.
- John 6 – Feeding of the five thousand.
- John 6 – Walking on the water.
- John 9 – Healing of the blind man.
- John 11 – Raising of Lazarus. cf. John 12:9-11

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### Faith That Jesus Is The Son Of God Is Based On Evidence

John 12:37, *"But though he had done so many signs before them, yet they believed not on him"*

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### Faith That Jesus Is The Son Of God Is Based On Evidence

John 20:30-31

*"Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name."*

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### Faith Simply Defined

FAITH ... Hebrews 11:1 is no exception to the rule that "faith" normally means "reliance," "trust." (ISBE)

*When Forgiveness Is Required,  
"Lord, Increase Our Faith" Luke 17:5*

### Faith Prompts Obedience Hebrews 11

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| •Abel    | •Barak    |
| •Noah    | •Samson   |
| •Abraham | •Jephthah |
| •Moses   | •David    |
| •Gideon  | •Samuel   |

*When Forgiveness Is Required,  
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### Every Christian ...

- Wants to have faith.
- Doesn't want to lose his faith.
- Knows he needs faith.
- Makes claims to faith.

#### **When Forgiveness Is Required**

*Do you ever see things in your life that make you wonder, "What's happening to me?"  
Do you ever surprise yourself?*

### Faith Can Change

#### What Can Happen:

- *Fail* (Luke 22:32; cf. Luke 5:5)
- *Cast off* (1 Timothy 5:11-12 KJV)
- *Become unbelievers* (Hebrews 3:12)

*"... faith working through love, Ye were running well; who hindered you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Galatians 5:7)*

*When Forgiveness Is Required,  
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### Faith Can Change

#### Various Kinds Of Faith:

- *Weak* (Romans 4:19)
- *Strong* (Romans 4:20)
- *Little* (Matthew 6:30; 14:31; 16:8)
- *Great* (Matthew 8:10)
- *Obedient faith* (Romans 16:26; cf. Hebrews 11)

*When Forgiveness Is Required,  
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### Faith Can Change

- *Work of faith.* 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- *Vain faith.* 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 58
- *Unfeigned faith.* 2 Timothy 1:5
- *Saving faith.* James 2:14
- *Dead faith.* James 2:26
- *Working faith.* James 2:24

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### Faith Can Change

#### Their faith had failed them.

- *In times of worry.* Matthew 6:30
- *In the storm they were afraid.* Matthew 8:26
- *On the sea, Peter doubted.* Matthew 14:31
- *When they forgot to take bread.*  
Matthew 16:5-10 (Note context)
- *On the Mount of Transfiguration, they failed to perform a miracle.* Matthew 17:19-20

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#### The Necessity of Increasing Our Faith ...

- *We are saved by faith.* Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 3:26ff
- *We live by faith.* 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 2:20
- *Faith is the foundation of our hope.*  
2 Corinthians 4:16ff

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## Lord Increase Our Faith ...

- ***In times of temptation.*** James 1:1-2;  
1 Corinthians 10:13
- ***In times of sadness and sorrow.***  
Hebrews 13:5
- ***In time of duty and obedience.***
  - ***Assembling.*** Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 20:7
  - ***Seeking the kingdom first.*** Matthew 6:33
    - "One Less Carrot."
  - ***Forgiveness.*** Luke 17:1-4

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## The Manner Of Increasing Our Faith

- ***Resort to the source of faith ... God's word.***  
Romans 10:17
- ***Personal application to our hearts and lives the teachings of God's word.*** James 1:21ff; 2:14ff
  - ***Pray for health ... take care of our bodies.***
  - ***Pray for daily bread ... work diligently.***
  - ***Pray for the lost ... go or send a teacher.***
  - ***Pray for increase of faith ... use the measure we have and seek to grow.*** cf. Psalms 19:7ff
- ***An increase of faith means an increase of every Christian virtue.*** (cf. 2 Peter 1:5ff)

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## Conclusion And Application

- ***We are involved in a fight of faith.***  
1 Timothy 6:12, 14
- ***We labor in a work of faith.***  
1 Thessalonians 1:3, 6ff
- ***We are a member of the household of faith.***  
Galatians 6:10

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## Conclusion And Application

Luke 17:10, "Even so ye also, when ye shall have done all the things that are commanded you, say, ***We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which it was our duty to do.***"

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## Conclusion And Application

- ***We all fail in some ways and NEED FORGIVENESS.***
    - "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
  - When we extend forgiveness from the heart, we have earned no special favor.
    - We have "merited" nothing.
    - We have not "benefited" God, or laid Him under "obligation."
1. Our services are not "profitable" to God (Job 22:2); He "needs" not our aid, and His essential happiness will not be increased by our efforts.
  2. The grace to do His will comes from Him only, and all the praise of that will be due to Him.
  3. All that we do is what is our "duty;" we cannot lay claim to having rendered any service that will "bind" Him to show us favor.

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## Conclusion And Application

4. Our best services are mingled with imperfections. We come short of His glory (Romans 3:23)
  - We do not serve Him as sincerely, and cheerfully, and faithfully as we ought
  - We are far, very far, from the example set us by the Savior; and if we are saved and rewarded, it will be because God will be merciful to our unrighteousness, and will remember our iniquities no more (Hebrews 8:12). (From: Barnes' Notes)
- "But when your faith has been so increased as both to avoid and forgive offences, and do things impossible to all but faith – even then, be not puffed up as though you had laid the Lord under any obligations to you." (Compare Job 22:2-3; Romans 11:35)  
(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown)

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