

LESSON 16: Concerning Offenses,
Faith, and Service

Luke 17:1-10

November 3, 2021

Concerning Offenses

Luke 17:1-4

Luke 17:3-4, "Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he sin against thee seven times in the day, and seven times turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."

- "If thy brother sin ..."
- "Rebuke him ..."
- "If he repent ..."
- "forgive him ..."

"If thy brother sin ..."

Sin is a terrible burden for any to carry.

- The magnitude of sin is seen in the result of sin. Ezekiel 18:20; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23
- Man cannot pay the debt of sin. cf. Matthew 16:26
- We need the blood of Christ. Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19.
 - Man's need is constant. 1 John 1:8-9

"If thy brother sin ..."

Two things are clear:

1. Sin is not ignored. Luke 17:3-4
2. If the sinner does repent, we must forgive him, else we cannot receive forgiveness from God ourselves. Matthew 6:14-15

"Rebuke him ..."

- Reprove him. Galatians 6:1
 - Go and tell him his fault, and seek an explanation. cf. Matthew 18:15ff
 - Acquaint him with what has been the effect of his conduct, that he may acknowledge his error and repent.
- Note: 2 Timothy 2:24-26

"If he repent ..."

- *metanoia* – "a change of mind for the better, heartily to AMEND with abhorrence of one's past sins." (Thayer, page 405)
- "This change of mind involves BOTH a turning from sin and a turning to God." (W.E. Vine, Volume 3, page 281)
- "John did not call on people to be sorry, but to change their mental attitudes AND CONDUCT." (A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures*, Volume 1, page 24)

"If he repent ..."

Examples of repentance:

- Jews on Pentecost. Acts 2
- Ninevites. Matthew 12:41; cf. Jonah 3:10
- Rebellious son. Matthew 21:28-29
- Prodigal son. Luke 15:11-21
- Thessalonians turned from idols.
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- Ephesians burned their books. Acts 19:19
- Jailor "washed their stripes." Acts 16:33
- Corinthians turned from former practices.
 - 1 Corinthians. 6:9-11

Repentance Commanded

Acts 17:30-31, "All men everywhere ..."
Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned ..."
Romans 4:15, "... where there is no law,
 neither is there transgression."

Therefore, all are under law!

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- "If thy brother sin ..."
- "Rebuke him ..."
- "If he repent ..."
- **"forgive him ..." – COMMANDED**

We Are To Forgive As God Has In Christ Forgiven Us. Ephesians 4:32**Is God's forgiveness unconditional?**

- Those outside of Christ who sin, must do something. Acts 2:36-38, 40-41; Acts 9:6; Acts 16:30-34
- Christians who sin, must do something.
 - 1 John 1:6-10; Acts 8:20-24
- God is willing to forgive, IF WE ARE WILLING TO MEET HIS CONDITIONS! Luke 23:34; cf. Acts 7:60; cf. Acts 9, 22, 26

What Forgiveness Is Not

- Just ignoring those who wrong us.
- Simply failing to return evil for evil. Romans 12:17-21; Hebrews 10:30.
- Ignoring sin.

What Forgiveness Is Not

- Saying, "I'll forgive – but I won't forget."
 - This is not the way Jesus forgives; when He forgives sin, He remembers it no more (Hebrews 10:17).
 - We cannot forgive one, and then constantly remind him of the sin and hold it over him.
 - cf. "I'll forgive you, but I won't have anything to do with you in the future" mentality.
- Putting the offender on probation.
 - Forgiveness must be from the heart. Matthew 18:35

What Is Forgiveness?

“To excuse for a fault or an offense; pardon;
To renounce anger or resentment against. To absolve from payment of (a debt as an example).”
 (American Heritage Dictionary)

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What Is Forgiveness?

From two Greek words: **apo (from); hiemi (send)** “to send away, to let go, give up a debt, to remit.” (According to the Theological Greek Dictionary of the New Testament)

- Bible example is a scapegoat (carrying away). Leviticus 16:21; cf. Isaiah 53:4-6.
- A “casting out” – Isaiah 38:17.
- A “starting over” – Philippians 3:13,14.

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What Is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness is ... being like God ...

- God removes the notation from the record – Acts 3:19, “*Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.*”
- God forgets, putting out of memory – Hebrews 8:12, “*For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And their sins will I remember no more.*”

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What Is Forgiveness?

Example of true forgiveness:

- The father forgave the prodigal son – Luke 15:20-24.

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Forgiveness Does Not Remove Temporal Consequences

- Convicted prodigal does not regain wasted money. Luke 15:13
- Convicted murderer does not escape death penalty. Acts 25:11
- Convicted thief does not escape “*due reward.*” Luke 23:40-43
- Convicted adulterer not free to “*marry another*” or continue adultery. Matthew 19:9

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Why Should I Forgive?

- **God commands it.**
 Mark 11:25, “*And whensoever ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any one ...*”
- **The example of Christ demands it.**
 Luke 23:34, “*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.*”

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