

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

## Day 1- Read Luke 17

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 17:10 "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants, we have only done what was our duty.'"*

## Day 2- Luke 17:1-2

1. What does Jesus say in verse 1a is inevitable or certain in this life?

Scholar's Note: In verse 2, "The "little ones" would seem to be either young or new believers or people the world takes little notice of."<sup>1</sup>

2. In verses 1 and 2, what does Jesus say is worse than dying a horrible death?



Jesus takes causing someone to fall into sin so seriously that he says it would be better to die an unnatural death of drowning in the sea than to face the woe/judgment that comes to the one who is causing others to sin.

In light of this he warns us in verse 3 to pay attention to ourselves. We cannot live the Christian life haphazardly or carelessly. God's truth and glory are at stake. We must be on guard against giving in to temptations that come our way and at the same time be on guard against being a stumbling block that would cause others to sin.

Most of us do not entice people to sin purposely, but being the imperfect people we are, certainly, we have inadvertently caused people to stumble through our carelessness. "As followers of Jesus, we must love others enough to examine our lives and our behaviors to make sure that we do not lead them into temptation."<sup>2</sup> Think through these questions, asking God to show you where you have been careless with his truth and glory or had a cavalier attitude toward sin:

- ❖ What is there in my lifestyle that could be a stumbling block that could cause a believer or unbeliever to sin?
- ❖ What is there in my words that could be a stumbling block that could cause a believer or unbeliever to sin?
- ❖ What is there in my attitudes that could be a stumbling block that could cause a believer or unbeliever to sin?

### Day 3- Luke 17:3-6

3. What are two more responsibilities we have regarding sin according to verse 3?
4. Most of us do not like rebuking a fellow believer, but Jesus is telling us to do it. Why is it so important in light of what Jesus has just said in verse 2?

-What attitudes do you need to cultivate in your heart and life to be open to hearing a rebuke from a fellow believer?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

*Galatians 6:1 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."*

- What attitude and demeanor should you have when you have to rebuke someone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. In verse 4 Jesus is not placing a specific number on the amount of times we should forgive someone, but he is establishing a principle of forgiveness. What is Jesus teaching us about forgiveness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6. How do we know from this verse that forgiveness is not a feeling?

For Discussion: "Because emotions reveal our beliefs and values (or our lack thereof), they give us vital insight into our hearts.<sup>3</sup>" If we say we forgive someone, but remain bitter and angry, what would those emotions be revealing to us?

- 7. How did the disciples rightly respond in verse 5 to the humanly impossible responsibilities Jesus had just laid out for his followers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8. The disciples had faith but they were worried it wasn't enough in the face of what Jesus was asking of them. How, in verse 6, does Jesus' metaphor dispel that notion?



The disciples knew that to live the way Jesus was showing them would take faith. Our natural inclination is not to keep on forgiving without boundaries or limits. To forgive necessarily means that we believe God's way is best and that he will heal, protect, defend, and act justly in his timing.

Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is an act of obedience in faith. Forgiveness is so difficult because it involves laying down your life, releasing someone from their debt to you—absorbing the cost yourself and not requiring that they keep paying for what they did. That kind of sacrificial living only comes from living by faith in a God who did that very thing for you.

- ❖ How does forgiving display the character of God to others?
  
- ❖ Why is a refusal to forgive comparable to saying to Jesus, “your death wasn’t enough to cover this sin.”
  
- ❖ How does understanding your own sin and how God has forgiven you, help you forgive others? Or to look at it from the opposite view, what does an unwillingness to forgive reveal about your own understanding regarding how God forgives you?
  
- ❖ What should you do when you struggle to forgive someone?

#### Day 4- Luke 17:7-19

9. Throughout the book of Luke Jesus has been showing his followers what it looks like to live in the kingdom of God and be a true follower of Jesus. In verses 1-4 Jesus lays out more of his kingdom ethic that will require faith to live out. In this next parable Jesus is telling the disciples that this kind of living is not beyond the call of duty, it is not deserving of any special acknowledgment, it is just how followers of Jesus live, reflecting who God is. What kind of attitude is Jesus calling for in verse 10?

Picture and Ponder: “...disciples [of Jesus] should not imagine that their obedience somehow puts God in their debt or earns some extra measure of his approval. The fact is that God is incredibly kind and gracious to his servants, but that love and care is rooted in his character, not in their performance.”<sup>4</sup>

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

*Ephesians 3:20 “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...”*

*2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

-How should these verses shape our attitude about our obedience and service to God?

Scholar's Note: "Epistatēs (Master) appears in the New Testament only in Luke's gospel, always in reference to Jesus (cf. 5: 5; 8: 24, 45; 9: 33, 49). This is the only occasion where the term was used by someone other than His disciples. Epistatēs denotes someone who possesses notable authority or power. The lepers' use of it to address Jesus indicates that they had knowledge of His miraculous ability to heal, which was widely known from His ministry in Galilee and Samaria."<sup>5</sup>

10. What was unusual about Jesus' command to the lepers in verse 14?

-What did the men demonstrate by obeying the command?

11. In verses 15 and 16 what three things did the Samaritan do that shows he alone of the ten understood the implications of his healing?

Picture and Ponder: "As people of faith, our praise to God must be radically Christ centered. Saving faith does not vaguely give glory to God the Father."<sup>6</sup>

12. Verse 19 is translated literally, "your faith has saved you." Out of ten lepers, only one was saved eternally. What is a distinguishing characteristic of someone who has genuine, saving faith according to this account?

For Discussion: How would you describe the "faith" of the nine Jewish lepers who were healed?

Day 5- Luke 17:20-37

13. Remember the Pharisees, as well as most of the Jewish people, were looking for a Messiah who would be a king like King David and establish an earthly kingdom that would overthrow the Romans who were ruling them. How does Jesus inform them in verses 20 and 21 that this is not what they should be looking for?

Scholar's Note: "The "kingdom of God" is God's reign over all things. It is God's kingly rule—his reign, his action, his lordship, his sovereign governance. The picture you get in the Gospels as Jesus unfolds the teachings of the kingdom is that it is both present and it is still future. In fact, this is what he means when he says that the mystery of the kingdom is here — presence without consummation. The kingdom of God is God's reign — his sovereign action in the world to redeem and deliver a people and then at a future time finish it and renew his people and the universe completely."<sup>7</sup>

14. Why should we not be confused by those who say Jesus has returned or concerned about whether we will recognize Jesus' second coming and the consummation of the kingdom according to Jesus in verse 24?

Scholar's Note: "Son of Man is a messianic term connected with the coming of Messiah to establish His kingdom. The title Son of Man, which emphasizes His humanity, was the Lord's favorite designation of Himself, appearing eighty-four times in the Gospels."<sup>8</sup>

15. In verses 26-30 Jesus compares the days leading up to the final judgment with the days that lead up to the judgments of God in the Old Testament— with the flood and in Sodom. What were the people doing before those judgments took place? (See Gen. 6-7 and 19 for the events of Noah and Lot.)

-What did this demonstrate about their attitude toward eternity?

16. What examples does Jesus give in verses 22-35 showing his second coming and the consummation of his kingdom will be:

Unmistakable and visible -

Sudden and decisive -

17. If your heart is attached to the things of this world, like Jesus is talking about in verses 31-32, what will be your destiny according to verse 33?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> Expositor's Commentary

<sup>2</sup> McKinley, Mike (2017-05-01). Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You Book 14) (p. 90). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Mahaney, Carolyn, Whitacre, Nicole. True Feelings. Crossway Publishers

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 21672-21674). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p.607

<sup>7</sup> Piper, John. audio transcript of interview with John Piper from podcast Ask Pastor John

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

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