

# *Developing A Life of Prayer*

*EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH*

*12/29/2021*

*“More Faith”*

*Lu 17:1-10 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"*

## I. Dealing with the sins of others – vs 1-4

### A. Offenses by the unsaved – vs 1-2

#### 1. Offenses will occur – Mt 18:7; Lk 12:47-48

- a. Man's nature is self-centered
- b. Whether intentional or unintentional, his self-centeredness will not consider others when wanting what he wants

#### 2. Offenses bring the pronouncement of woe and judgment – 12:47-50; Mt 18:6-9

### B. Offenses by the saved

#### 1. Confrontation about the sin – Mt 18:15-20

- a. go and tell him his fault between you and him alone
  - i. If he hears you, you have gained your brother
  - ii. But if he will not hear
- b. take with you one or two more,
  - i. that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'
  - ii. if he refuses to hear them
- c. tell it to the church
  - i. if he refuses even to hear the church

- ii. let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector
- iii. 1Co 5:5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- d. Purpose is restoration – Gal 6:1-2
  - i. you who are spiritual (have the Spirit)
  - ii. and so fulfill the law of Christ
  - iii. 2Co 2:5-6 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent--not to be too severe. This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man,

## 2. Our passage

- a. Rebuke him – vs 3
  - i. It is good - Pr 27:5; Ec 7:5
  - ii. Should be done in humility - Gal 6:1
  - iii. Sometimes, (elders) should be done publicly – 1 Ti 5:20
  - iv. Part of the preaching ministry – 2 Ti 4:2; Tit 2:15
  - v. Is not heard by scorners, the poor – Pro 9:8; 13:1,8;
- b. Forgive him
  - i. if he sins against you seven times in a day
  - ii. and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,
  - iii. Therefore, repentance is a recognition of wrongdoing, it is not a corrected life
- c. The completeness of forgiveness
  - i. you shall forgive him – vs 4 seven times in a day
  - ii. Jesus enlarges it to 70x7 – Mt 18:21-22
  - iii. The focus on seven, even if it is a literal number, but the idea of completeness

## II. Prayer in Desiring Sufficiency -vs 5-6

### A. Increase our Faith

- A. First thought of disciples in forgiving a brother 7 times in a day
  - a. They are confident that they have faith
  - b. They are sure that they don't have enough to forgive a brother 7 times in a day
- B. W/o faith, it would be natural to feel animosity, resentment, and bitterness

### B. Christ's explanation about Faith

- 1. Size of faith is not the issue – Mt 13:31-33
  - a. In Jewish understanding, the mustard seed was the smallest garden seed
  - b. Faith, however small, has dynamic potential – Mt 13:32
  - c. Adding to faith or growth is a truth, but small is not limited – 1 Th 1:3; 2 Th 1:3
  - d. Jesus' example of small faith doing big things – vs 6 - sycamine tree
- 2. Principles related to prayer
  - a. We can ask God for growth in our faith -Lk 11:9-13
    - i. We must submit to His means to grow that faith
    - ii. Be in His word -Ro 10:17
    - iii. Focus on God's will and power when facing trials – Ro 5:3-5; 2 Th 1:4; Jas 1:2,5
  - b. Don't just pray to grow faith, take opportunities to exercise it (consider the above)

## III. Prayer in Humble Unworthiness – vs 7-10

## A. Connections with Faith

1. In faith, one finds God and the path to do great things
2. The great things are not done to promote self, but to serve and please the Lord

## B. The Core of the Parable

1. It is reasonable for the Master to expect service from one's servant – vs 7-9
2. At a fitting time, the servant gets his rest and meal – vs 8

## C. The Concept of the Parable – vs 10

1. So likewise you – what was said in vs 7-9, applies to God's servants
  2. when you have done all those things which you are commanded
    - a. one should never think that they have amassed merits that somehow put them in charge, turning the master into the servant
    - b. say,
      - i. We are unprofitable servants
        - Not a confession that they are worthless as they have served throughout
        - They have no worthiness in their performance or in themselves giving glory to God for His grace to be able to do anything of value
      - ii. We have done what was our duty to do
        - God is the Lord we serve
        - We are always the servants
        - Our service is always unto Him – Ro 14:4-8
3. Obedience is not a matter of Faith, it is the mindset of the servant
    - a. Rebuking a brother that has offended we think is easy until we see how and why God wants us to do it
    - b. Forgiving the offending brother, especially multiple times, for the same thing, is not easy, but obedience in doing it is a matter of the mindset of the servant doing his duty b/c the Master said so
    - c. Looking to God for wisdom and grace to do what He has called us to do is developing a life of prayer