

# Luke 17

## Luke 17.1-4

**V1 – Will there always be some people who will fall away from the church? Yes**

**-Which parable illustrates this?** Parable of the Sower (*Matt. 13.1-9*)

-Roadside: birds ate the seed

-Rocky ground: no depth

-Thorny ground: choked out

-Good ground: bore much good fruit

**-What did the apostle Peter say about the person who falls away from the faith?**

See 2 Peter 2.20-22

**-What warning did Jesus give here?** To make sure we are not the cause for someone's stumbling

**V2 – What would be better than causing someone to stumble?** That we would be drowned with a millstone around our neck

**-"Little ones" – children?** – Luke did not use the normal Greek word for children, but another word that indicates both children and also adults with child-like tendencies

-*Mark 10.13-16* – New converts, weak members, etc.

-Remember that all things are "lawful," but not all things are expedient

-Recall the words of Paul in *Romans 14* and *1 Cor. 8-9*

**V3 – Why be on guard?** That we are not the cause of stumbling

**-What responsibility do we have to one another?** To watch out for each other (especially important for elders, as they watch over the flock of God)

**-What is the purpose of correcting a brother or sister?** To bring about repentance (a change)

**-Our obligation?** To forgive a penitent brother or sister

**V4 – How often should we be willing to forgive?** As long as the heart is penitent

## Luke 17.5-10

**V5 – What made them see the need for more faith?** Possibly their lack of a forgiving spirit

**V6 –** The mulberry tree was used for medical purposes in the First Century

**-How much faith did they need?** They needed as much faith as the germ of life in a mustard seed

**-Why does a plant seed need "faith" (in a figurative sense)?** The seed "believes" that spring will come and that the Heavenly Father will send rain and sunshine to cause the seed to grow

**V7-8 –** Possibly the apostles were getting puffed-up and proud of their forgiving spirit and faith and ability to perform miracles

**-Does the master feed the slave?** No, the slave prepares the food for the master

**-Lesson?** We are to obey God and not take the glory for ourselves

**V9 –** We are to do what we are commanded to do

**V10 –** We are to serve faithfully, and even then we are unprofitable slaves

**-In what sense are we unprofitable (unworthy)?** More has been done for us that we can do for God (think about our relationship with our earthly parents)

## **Luke 17.11-19**

**V 11** – On the way to Jerusalem what area did they pass through? Samaria

**V 12** – Why were 10 lepers together? They were social outcasts from society

-Why did they stand at a distance? *Lev. 13.45-46, Numbers 5.2*

**V 13** – Why did they raise their voices? They were some distance away

-Why did they ask for mercy? They were in a pitiful condition and wanted to be healed (there was no cure for their disease in the First Century)

**V 14** – According to *Lev. 13-14*, the priest had to certify that the person was cured of leprosy

-What did Jesus tell them to do? Go to the priest and show themselves to him

-Did they have faith? Apparently yes – they went to the priest

-When they arrived at the location of the priest, they were healed

**V 15** – What did one do when he was healed? Turned back and glorified God and fell before Jesus and gave thanks

-What was the ethnic background of this man? A Samaritan

-Think about the joy of being cured of leprosy – it must have been tremendous

**V 16** – He gave thanks

-What position was he in as he gave thanks? He fell on his face at the feet of Jesus

**V 17** – All had been cleansed of this terrible disease, and all had received mercy

-Where were the nine?

**V 18** – This "foreigner" – not derogatory, just not a Jew

**V 19** – Jesus cleansed him in both body and soul (because of his faith in Jesus and his attitude of thanksgiving for what Christ had done)

-How do we spend Thanksgiving Day? Watching football, getting stuffed on turkey

-Are we truly grateful for our blessings?

## **Luke 17.20-21**

**V 20** – The phrase "kingdom of God" refers to the reign of God for any given generation

-From *Exodus 20-Acts 1*, it referred to the Jewish nation

-From *Acts 2* until the end of time, it refers to the Lord's church

-Ultimately the kingdom will be heaven

-Jesus' answer? There won't be signs for the establishment of the kingdom, at least not signs that the Pharisees would recognize

-They would be spiritually blind to the coming of the kingdom in *Acts 2*

**V 21** – The kingdom was "near"

-**In what sense was the kingdom near?** John the Baptist had been preaching the message about the coming Kingdom of God (*Matt. 3.2*)

-**What was Jesus doing to bring about the Kingdom of God soon?** The apostles had been appointed and were already being sent out to preach the word of God

-And they were being prepared for the Day of Pentecost that would come soon (*Acts 2*)

## **Luke 17.22-37**

**V 22** – In difficult times to come, the disciples would long to have Jesus walking on the earth again

**V 23** – **What would people be saying?** Jesus could be found here or there

**V 24** – This is referring to the Second Coming (the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. had all kinds of warning signs and did not just suddenly begin) – **See Matt. 24.3-35**

**V 25** – **What must happen first?** Jesus must suffer and be rejected

**V 26-27** – **How did the flood come?** Suddenly and without warning

**V 28-29** – **What about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?** Also suddenly

**V 30-31** – No changes can be made once the Second Coming begins

**V 32** – **Why should we remember Lot's wife?** She looked back

-When a person obeys the gospel today and then falls away from the faith, he makes a terrible mistake (just as Lot's wife did)

**V 33** – **To lose one's life means what?** To give all for the sake of Christ

-**What does it mean to keep one's life?** To live as a selfish person and never submit to Christ

**V 34** – **Why will one person in a bed be taken up into the air and not the other?**

See **1 Thess. 4.16-17** – Christians will be raised up first (and the lost people will come later)

See **John 5.28-29** – All will be raised within one hour (dead in Christ first, then the lost people)

**V 35** – **Another example of the saved person being taken to heaven and a lost person being taken to judgment later?** Two women grinding (one taken, the other left, for the next events leading up to eternal judgment)

**36** – **Another example?** Two men in a field....

**V 37** – **Where do we see vultures?** Flying over a dead animal or dead body

-Jesus seems to be saying that the vultures are gathering over this earth, because this is all destined to be destroyed at the end of time

-So we are not to put our trust in this life, but in the life to come

-Christians have a very different "world view" of this life – that this life is destined to fail at some point in the future and that it is foolish to place our faith in anything that this life has to offer

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