

Forgivers Make the Best....

Luke 17:1-10

Slide, include the

- This message was prepared and planned before Dave's message...
- last weekend on the "out flowing of God's Spirit in our lives",
- this message talks about how that outpouring could be hindered, but importantly how it can happen.
- Dave will dive more into what that means in the future.
- One of the key words he used from Scripture was 'ask'

After He comes permanently into our life through our faith in Christ Crucified....

-we are to ask every day to be filled with His Spirit.
- Why? In order that His Spirit would be dominant in power, influence, navigator, sanctifier, enlightener etc.
- He wants to be in control. He does not have to be in control, it is our choice, everyday!
- We-have-to-ask!

We need to ask to be filled because we have the power to....

- Quench**, through unbelief; to **Grieve** through personal sin; & to **Resist** God the Spirit by self-will.
- God has made us in His image and a part of that image is, free will.
- All of us exercise free will every day, every hour even after we are saved...
- Chuck Missler said once said in my hearing, Free will is the most deadly gift that humans possess.
- We are to constantly give it up. Do you remember these words: Not my will but yours be done.
- Filling then should lead to an outpouring of the Spirit, refreshing others as cool water on a thirsty day.

This also is part 2 of a message I delivered on 10/29/26, Titled:

- "To Forgive Requires Faith and Obedience"*, from the same Luke passage we are revisiting today.
- Today our emphasis is on the Doctrine of the forgiver'.
- We'll end with the many benefits of that way of life.

- You follow theses verses in your and I will expand the translation for clarity,
- ...using *Thought Flow* and we'll make some comments.

17:1 Then [or But] He said to the [twelve] disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses [stumbling blocks] should come, but **woe** to him through whom they do come!"

How severe is this woe?

v.2 It would be better for him [the offender] if a [donkey] millstone [500-1000 lbs.] were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these **little ones**....

- There is a passage where the translation 'little ones' is appropriate,...
-when Jesus put a child on His lap, and talked about offending one of these little ones
- but there are no lap children here, only the 12, grown disciples who were elected to be Apostles.
- Better to translate the word here as: "least" or least ones...
- This phrase was used of John the Baptist, whom Jesus and the translators describe as 'the least',
- in the Kingdom of God in Luke 7:28.

Perhaps you are the one being stumbled by another brother

- before you do anything like look for a millstone neck collar for your offender,
- first absorb this teaching by Jesus Himself...

v.3 [Continuously] **take heed to yourselves.**

- ‘Continuously taking heed to yourselves’ is a key phrase to apply to ourselves with these 10 verses.
- Examine yourselves, judge yourself before you even righteously judge someone else.
- Look first for any measure of blame in yourself: did I have any part in this stumbling, this offense?

Ask yourself, “Is there a place for forgiveness before I condemn my brother?” Yes!

v.3 cont. ... If your [spiritual] **brother** sins against you, rebuke him [but don’t condemn him]; ...

2 Timothy 4:2 is appropriate here:

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Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, **rebuke**, exhort, with [or *within* an atmosphere of] **all longsuffering and teaching** [this atmosphere comes from: taking heed to yourself, first].

end slide

-Rebuke, confront, but don’t condemn, see what happens next in Luke 17 verse 3...

v.3 cont. ... and if he repents [changes his mind, says I’m wrong], **forgive him**.

Who is the most condemnable offender? The repeat offender.

v.4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day [turns and] returns to you, saying [these words only], ‘I repent,’ you shall **forgive him** [each and every time].”

-Forgive is **aphee-i-mi**, it is used 146 times in the NT, it gives the picture of, ‘let it leave’

-On the cross Jesus used **aphee-i-mi** in **Luke 23:34** Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive [let it leave] them, for they do not know what they do.”

Lou-Nida, a valued Greek lexicon, says this on the word for forgive (*aphee-i-mi*):

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“It is extremely important to note that the focus in the meanings of ἀφίημι, is upon the guilt of the wrongdoer and not upon the wrongdoing itself. The event of wrongdoing is not undone, but the guilt resulting from such an event is pardoned in forgiveness. To forgive, therefore, means essentially to remove the guilt resulting from wrongdoing, *however there may be consequences*.”

end slide

-And those consequences are not spoken of here by Jesus. They are not addressed here.

-Only our hearts are addressed here.

-Here there is no looking for the fruit of repentance as outlined 2 Corinthians 7:8-12.

-There is a place for that, but not here, not today!

-This teaching of Jesus here is not about consequences, this is about the Doctrine of the Forgiver!

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Are You, Am I, Predisposed to Forgive?

end slide

-This is not about the sinner, the offender but the about the heart of the forgiver!

So we Ask Why Seven times?

-The rabbinical max was three and if a fourth transgression occurs judgment will surely come.

-This came from Amos where this phrase is used 8 times, all by the LORD:

-Here is the phrase:

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“For three transgressions and for four I will not turn away [from wrath]”

end slide

-Eight times YHWH says He will surely punish 8 different people groups with the fourth occurrence.

-the Rabbis taught three strikes and then with a fourth incident, judgment would come from the LORD

- This was the mindset of the Apostles, who were taught by the same Rabbis, Scribes, and Pharisees.
- If 7 times in Luke 17 sounds familiar it is probably because of....

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Matthew 18:21-22

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to **seven** times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

end slide

- the context of Peter's question comes in the wake of Jesus' instructions regarding...
- church discipline in the future church age.
- Based on Peter's use of, 'forgive up to 7 times', I would suggest that Matthew's passage...
- came after Christ's teachings on forgiving seven times in Luke 17.
- Jesus in response blew the lid off of limiting the number of times we are to forgive.
- In the minds of the disciples the number went from 3 to 7 to 490.

How did the 12 respond to Luke 17:5?

v.5 And the apostles said to the Lord [this is beyond how we were taught and therefore you need to] **"Increase our faith".**

- we need a larger faith to forgive a larger number of sins!

Does the Lord answer their prayer and increase their faith? No.

v.6 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 [of no remembrance], and it [will] obey you.

- If you don't get the roots out it will grow back, you have the authority and the ability to get them out.
- What is He referencing.....

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Forgiveness and the Bitter Roots of Unforgiveness, Let them Fly Away

end slide

- They asked for an increase in the size of their faith, but this is **not** about the quantity of their faith.
- What they needed was not an increase in what they believed about forgiveness,....
- but the correct....

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Doctrine of the Forgiver

end slide

- It stems from God's Doctrine of Forgiveness towards us.

Paul encapsulates this Doctrine of the Forgiver in Ephesians and Colossians

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Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **God in Christ forgave you.**

Colossians is even more emphatic

Colossians 3:13

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, [how serious is this Paul?] so you also **must do.**

end slide

- With the correct faith that only needs to be as small as a mustard seed,
- they could move the obstacle of unforgiveness out the way of our serving Him.

-trees and their roots regarding forgiveness that otherwise would be impossible to move.
- Your part in this to have the correct 'forgivers faith' and then size and numbers of sin won't matter.

Back to Luke 17 verse 7

-There is a connection between vs.1-6 and verse 7. What is it? Let's find out....

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v.7 cont.... but which of you [12 disciples that would be Apostolic leaders], having [authority over] a servant [*doulos*, Bondservant] plowing [farming] or tending sheep [shepherding], will say to him when he has come in from the field 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?

8 But [instead] will he [you as the Master] not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve [*diakonos*] me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?

9 Does he thank that servant [*doulon*, Bondservant] because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

end slide

-What is a bondservant? I'll give you the short version from...

Deut. 15:12-18.... if a brother is in debt and cannot pay, he enters into servitude for a maximum of 7 years.... when it is paid off a choice has to be made....based on several factors.... explain

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As believers we are to choose being a Bondservant

End slide

Why doesn't the master thank him?

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v.10 So likewise you, when you [twelve, viewed now as the bondservants and not the Master] have done all those things which you are commanded [by your Master], say [of yourselves], 'We are unprofitable [*ach-reios*: useless, worthless] servants [*dou-los*, Bondservants].

end slide

-unprofitable: 'not deserving special praise, not worthy of particular commendation.'

-Why because we are, 'fully paid for debtors'

v.10 cont. [continue to say], we have done what was our duty to do.'

-What is going through 12 exploding heads at this time?

-This is a part of the greatest servanthood & leadership training of all time!

-Let us Humble ourselves through this teaching and He will lift us up!

Let's apply this teaching first doctrinally and then personally

Our title....

Forgivers Make the Best.....

You ask: they make the best what?

Forgivers start with being much forgiven

Forgivers very much understand the completeness of God's forgiveness

Forgivers tend to be *Provisionists*

Forgivers do not love sin, but they love forgiving sins

Forgivers are not cultural pacifist, they understand the necessity to restrain sin

Forgivers understand being forgiving versus the transactions of forgiveness

Forgivers are quicker to ask for forgiveness

Forgivers understand that trust is a separate issue from forgiveness

Forgivers who understand forgiveness are more hopeful about all people

Forgivers have smaller rear view mirrors

Forgivers are not and do not act cynical

Forgivers are first *submitting* bondslaves before they are masters or leaders

Forgivers manifest more joy and peace

Forgivers make the best lovers

-of God, other people...

Forgivers make the best spouses

Forgivers are seldom, if ever bitter

Forgivers tend to be more fun to be around

Forgivers tend to live longer

According to Michigan State research: Yes, forgiving people tend to live longer and healthier lives than those who harbor grudges. Holding onto resentment keeps the body in a constant state of heightened stress, which increases cortisol and blood pressure. By contrast, forgiveness lowers stress hormones, boosts immune function, and reduces cardiovascular strain.

Psychology today: Research on adults aged 66 and older found that individuals who required conditional terms to forgive others had a significantly higher mortality risk than those with more flexible, unconditional forgiving attitudes.

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Forgivers are most like the great forgiver, Jesus Himself

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-What is the final story for the 12, unworthy, unthanked, bondslaves, we know as Apostles?

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Revelation 21:14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

End slide

-It is our choice to be a FORGIVER or not.

-Be a forgiver, ready always to forgive.

-or choose not to be a forgiver except on your own terms, your choice, your rules-not God's.

-Forgivers will not restrict the manifestation of the refreshing outpouring of the Spirit to a thirsty world

-But more on that in the future.

Let's pray