

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 35

Lesson 35 – Instructions About Forgiveness and Service

Background:

This lesson is based on chapter 17 of Luke's gospel. Jesus gives instructions about forgiveness, causing others to stumble, faith and duty or service. In the middle section of the chapter Jesus miraculously heals ten lepers and we learn a lesson about thankfulness.

In the third section of the chapter, we learn about some of the signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Scripture Passage:

Read: [Luke 17:1-37](#)

Read the Following Quote:

"In some way, all of us are like the lepers. We all live at times with our feelings numbed by the harsh realities of life; at times we feel the wasting effects of the enemy's warfare, and at other times we feel bitterly isolated from others. But the Lord showed us in this story that the way to his healing is open when we pray the way the Samaritan leper did: with faith to ask the Lord for what we need. Faith to listen for his instructions and follow them. And faith to return to him with gratitude in our hearts." [Claire Cloninger](#)

Questions:

Do you identify with the lepers at all? In what way? What can we do if we feel "isolated" from others?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Luke 17:1-37](#)

Sin, Faith and Duty [Luke 17:1-10](#)

1. What kinds of things in life might cause us to stumble? How can we cause "little ones" to stumble? Who do you think are the "little ones"? What is the warning Jesus gives? (Verses 1-3)

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2. What does Jesus teach us here about forgiveness? Compare [Matthew 18:21-22](#). What kind of sins are easiest to forgive? Which are the most difficult? How can we get help to learn how to forgive others?
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3. Define faith. Now read [Hebrews 11:1](#). Is biblical faith different from the world's definition of faith?
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4. What does Jesus say about faith in verse 6? Can faith like this work in everyday life? Why do the disciples think they need more faith? Do you need more faith?
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5. Discuss what Jesus says about service and duty in verses 7-10. What kind of servants do you think Jesus expects us to be? Should we serve only if we expect to be rewarded? Is it fair that we are His servants?
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Jesus Heals Ten Lepers [Luke 17:11-17](#)

6. Where did Jesus heal 10 lepers? Did the lepers get close to Jesus and the disciples? What did they ask of Jesus?
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7. Read about the Old Testament instructions for lepers in [Leviticus 13:1-17](#). Do you think that the instructions seem cruel? Why do you think that God gave these instructions?
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8. What instructions did Jesus give to the lepers? How does this relate to the passage in Leviticus? Why do you think that Jesus healed them in this way?
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9. How did the ten lepers respond to Jesus when they were healed? What does this tell you about their attitude? What does Jesus think? Describe a time when you forgot to be thankful. How does it make you feel if you express thanks to someone? How might it make the other person feel?

The Coming of the Kingdom of God, Read [Luke 17:20-37](#)

10. Explain what you think Jesus means about the Kingdom of God in verses 20-21. How would you define the Kingdom of God?

11. Who is the Son of Man described in verses 22-25? What will the days of the Son of Man be like? What must happen to the Son of Man before those days?

12. Jesus compares the "days of the Son of Man" first to the days of Noah, then to the days of Lot. Why do you think He did that?

13. What is the warning Jesus gives for the "day of the Son of Man?" Is this day likely to happen in our lifetime? How can we know? How should we prepare?

Suggested Prayer: *Heavenly Father, teach us how to be a forgiving people. Give us the ability to show mercy and compassion to those who hurt us. Help us to live lives that are positive and Christ-like, not negative and uncaring. Teach us to be thankful like the leper in the story. Keep us focused on the future and the coming of the Son of Man, so that we might be prepared for the day of the return of our Lord and Saviour. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

For Further Reading:

[Leprosy](#)

[The Son of Man](#)

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