

## Attitudes of Disciples in the Spiritual Kingdom

Luke 17:1-19

### Offenses and Forgiveness

<sup>1</sup> Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> 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."

### Faith and Duty

<sup>5</sup> And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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'? <sup>8</sup> 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'? <sup>9</sup> Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. <sup>10</sup> 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.'"

### Thankfulness for Blessings

<sup>11</sup> Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup> So when He saw *them*, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

### Questions:

1. Why does Jesus warn us, not just about sin, but the danger of being a cause of stumbling to others? Why does Jesus use a millstone to make His point? vs 1-2
2. Who are the little ones that Jesus wants to protect from sin? vs 2 Is He referring to young children or to other followers of Jesus?
3. What is our responsibility if your brother sins against you? vs 3 Why are we tempted to keep silent and do nothing? How is it an act of love to rebuke the one who has wronged you? (Gal 6:1-2)
4. How far are we to be willing to go to forgive the one who sins against us but later repents? Should we question the person's sincerity if there are repeated offenses? vs 4
5. After this teaching on forgiveness, why do the disciples ask to have their faith increased? How does Jesus answer this request? What does He tell them about faith?
6. Why would a servant not expect special favor when he comes in from a day's work? vs 7-9
7. In what ways do we as 21st century believers take God for granted, expect Him to do our bidding, and become impatient when He doesn't grant our wishes?
8. When we have done all we are commanded, why are we still unprofitable servants? Why is "duty" such a bad word in our culture?
9. What did the lepers expect when they called out to Jesus for mercy? vs. 11-13 Were they seeking food, shelter, clothing, or actual healing?
10. What was the purpose of showing themselves to the priests? vs 14 (see Leviticus 14:2ff) Why does Luke make the point that they were not healed until they started to obey Jesus' command?
11. What about the thankful leper's actions showed his thankfulness? What was Jesus' attitude toward the other nine? Why is it so easy to forget to thank God for His blessings?