

I. Intro

A. Let's pick up our study in Luke 17

1. Headed to Jerusalem
2. Teaching disciples – Rebuking Pharisees
3. Healing the sick

II. Text

A. Luke 17:1-10

1. (Vs 1-4) In Luke 16, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees
 - a) Over money, marriage, excess, lack of compassion
 - b) Greater offense – leading others to sin
 - (1) Dangerous to live in sin MORE dangerous to tempt others to sin!
 - c) *Warning for leaders and those with influence:*
 - (1) *Your words carry weight. Your choices and behavior carry weight.*
 - (2) *If that weight is used to tempt others to sin – woe to you!*
 - d) *Therefore, pay attention to yourselves*
 - (1) *Check your heart, your motives, your words, your actions*
 - (2) *Ask the Holy Spirit to search you and expose you*
 - (3) *Watch for this behavior in others – rebuke, repent, forgive*
 - (4) *Don't tempt to sin – point to repentance and forgiveness (7x a day)*
2. (Vs 5-6) Apostles are overwhelmed by this
 - a) Apostles – “We have to forgive 7x a day?! Increase my faith!”
 - b) Jesus – “You don't need more faith, you need to use the faith you have”
 - (1) Tiny faith can uproot the strongest root system – mulberry
 - (2) *Put the faith you already have to work!*
3. (Vs 7-10) Think of it like a servant
 - a) Servant does his work without a “thank you”
 - b) Servant is not owed more (in the form of a thank you, or a kind of debt)
 - c) Servant acts out of duty – parallels our relationship with God
 - (1) *As servants, we have specific duties – like forgiveness*

(2) *God does not owe us some special faith to obey*

(3) *It's our duty to forgive. Duty to repent. Duty to obey.*

d) *In fact, if anyone says "thank you" it should be the servant*

B. Luke 17:11-19

1. Parable comes alive in the healing of the lepers
 - a) 10 lepers are healed, but one says "thank you"
 - b) 10 lepers are healed, but one is told "your faith made you well"
2. Core themes – faith and gratitude (repeated for emphasis [Ps 2:4;37:6;107])
 - a) Hallmarks for discipleship – this is our duty
 - b) However, there is a plot twist – the foreigner models duty, not the Jew
 - (1) There is a remnant – the apostles are all Jews
 - (2) But, the Jewish leaders are on the outside
3. Demonstrated in the questions they ask...
 - a) Matthew and Mark set this conversation in the Olivet Discourse (final week)
 - b) Luke splits it here (Lk 17) and final week (Lk 21:5-38)

C. Luke 17:20-37

1. Luke includes this teaching here because it makes a point
 - a) Foreigners can see what God is doing
 - b) Jews are missing what God is doing – especially Pharisees
 - (1) Jewish leaders want to know – when is the kingdom coming
 - (2) Jesus replies – it is already in your midst!
 - c) Whole chapter is about religious divide
 - (1) Divide between causing others to sin vs repenting of sin
 - (2) Divide between wanting more vs exercising what you have
 - (3) Divide between entitlement and works vs gratitude and faith
 - (4) Divide between looking for a sign vs beholding God already working
2. This divide isn't exclusive to the 1st century
 - a) This is why we have the end times warning here
 - b) This culture missed Jesus' first arrival – don't miss His second!

3. *Second coming will be like...*
 - a) *Times of Noah – eating and drinking...living life right up to destruction*
 - b) *Times of Sodom – buying, selling, planting, building...right up to destruction*
 - (1) *No consideration for the signs of the times or coming judgment*
 - (2) *Be careful, you can get carried away with it – Remember Lot's wife!*
 - c) *Don't follow the Pharisee! Don't follow this world! It is under judgment!*
 - (1) *"Causing others to sin" is under judgment*
 - (2) *"Wanting more, craving excess" is under judgment*
 - (3) *"Entitlement and privilege" is under judgment*
 - (4) *"Forcing God to prove Himself" is under judgment*
 - d) *Jesus is coming like a flash of lightening*
 - (1) *Two in the bed – one taken and the other left (think Passover)*
 - (2) *Two in the field – one taken and the other left*
4. *"Taken where?" the disciples ask...*
 - a) *Taken to where corpses are, where vultures gather – taken in death*
 - (1) *Some think "the one taken" is taken in salvation*
 - (2) *However, I don't see that in context – in context, the taken are judged*
 - (3) *Those eating, drinking, buying, and selling are suddenly taken in judgment*

D. Conclusion

1. *However you read "taken" the point of this chapter remains*
 - a) *Always a divide between your ways and His ways*
 - b) *But, there is an objective standard, a duty, a way to be a disciple*
 - c) *Doesn't come from you or your preference – comes from Him*
2. *Therefore, hear the Word of the Lord AND obey it*
 - a) *Order your life around Jesus' commands – not preferences, desires, or feelings*
 - b) *Let's follow Jesus. Let's do things His way.*
 - c) *Don't get caught up in this world. Get caught up in God's kingdom, in our midst.*