



**Sermon Series:** Owning a Faith that Matters

**To be used with Session 6: Maturing Faith**

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** Walking in Faith

**Scripture:** Luke 17:1-10

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study “Maturing Faith” this sermon will investigate the words of Christ in Luke 17. Jesus is teaching a very important lesson about walking in faith. Walking in faith requires leaving behind petty disagreements and entering maturity. This relates to the session through deeply following the word of God to discover that we all could use a lesson in maturity. The disciple of God can experience chastisement and rebuke through the eyes of a Savior that wants all to come into the knowledge of salvation. These lessons showcase the importance of living a holy life amid offense and temptation. And it becomes infinitely abhorrent when any of us are the tempter.

**Introduction:** The Christian life is built through surrender to Christ and a lifelong pursuit of walking in his light in obedience to His commands. We live in a world that without question is in open rebellion against His righteousness and truth. Our Savior commands that we be holy because He is holy, yet we turn on devices that can be used for His glory and/or our shame. A healthy disciple of God must exist in a community where they can be known and held accountable. God commissions the church to carry out bringing the saints into maturity. According to Pastor Thabiti Anyabwile, “A church is a collection of people receiving and giving correction as we avoid temptation while living for Christ.”<sup>1</sup> The relationship of the church is crucial to the maturity of the saints of God. We must exhibit characteristics that build one another towards love and good deeds. As we encourage one another, we must walk in faith through forgiveness, obedience, and humility.

**1. Walk in Faith through sincere forgiveness (Luke 17:1-4).**

Jesus proceeds in His warnings to remind the disciples that offenses and temptations will come. However, what we must be extra careful is that we don’t take the posture of the tempter. This statement from Christ reiterates that Satan is not off the hook. The world around us can be quite elusive and our natural tendency is to give in. But the power of

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<sup>1</sup> Anyabwile, T. (2018). *Exalting Jesus in Luke* (p. 255). Holman Reference.

Christ within every believer and the fellowship of other believers can combat our natural urge to rebel. This is why it is so important that Christians work towards the same unity Jesus prays that we would obtain. We must be bold to rebuke and humble enough receive rebuke. We must be open to forgive and quick to repent when we need forgiveness. In this life we will not reach perfection. But we have been given the Holy Spirit where we are no longer bound to the sin in this world. We must walk in faith through sincere forgiveness, remembering that we have been forgiven by a Holy God.

## **2. Walk in Faith through bold petitions (Luke 17: 5-6).**

Self-awareness is one of the most valuable tools in our arsenal towards seeking holiness. Every disciple must be keenly alert that there is an enemy that would like nothing more than to steal, kill and destroy the work of God in your life. The disciples were much like us. They asked Jesus for an increase of faith. This could have been because they had a measure of doubt that this calling might be too much for them to bear with just their measure of faith alone. Do you ever feel ill equipped for the work of God? If the answer is yes, then join every other saint that has committed to a life surrendered to Christ. Jesus made no rebuke at the question He just simply stated that if you add your measure of faith with a bold proclamation then this mustard seed faith can achieve the impossible. This reminds me of Hebrews 4:16, "Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."<sup>2</sup> We have access to God through the forgiveness of our sins through Christ Jesus.

## **3. Walk in Faith through humble service (Luke 17: 7-10).**

Humility is a virtue that always serves the Christian well. Proverbs 6:16-19 clearly states, "The LORD hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers."<sup>3</sup> Ironically, these are similar warnings from Christ. This verifies the nature and character of a holy and righteous God. His expectation is no longer a sacrifice, just obedience. We serve God because it is how we have been created. As humans, we have been designed to image God and give Him glory. This only pulls against us because of our fallen nature. We draw near to God in humble service to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. Jesus gives the analogy of a servant who plays his role of tending to the master's food. We serve a gracious king, but he is still our king. My we never forget the sacrifice that was made on our behalf that we might be restored to the service of our King.

**Conclusion:** The local church is the chosen catalyst to take the gospel to the nations. It is also how we reach maturity by humbly submitting to one another in rebuke and forgiveness. When

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<sup>2</sup> [\*Christian Standard Bible\*](#) (Heb 4:16). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> [\*Christian Standard Bible\*](#) (Pr 6:16–19). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers.

we walk in faith through forgiveness, bold petitions, and humble service it brings us closer to how we have been created. May we never forget the sacrifice of Christ and live in obedience to the commands we have been given. Let our posture be that of 1 John 5:3-4, “For this is what love for God is: to keep His commands. And His commands are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.”<sup>4</sup>

### **Author Bio**

Jason Thomas serves with International Mission Board (IMB) as African American Church Mobilization Strategist in Virginia. Previously, he served as the Ministry Director for college students with Louisiana Baptists. Jason has been married to his wife, Gaynel for 13 years and holds a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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<sup>4</sup> [\*Christian Standard Bible\*](#) (1 Jn 5:3–4). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers.