

➤ **Read Luke 17.**

As Jesus heads toward Jerusalem to suffer and die, he continues to teach his followers about discipleship. He is “preparing his disciples for the time when he would no longer be with them and they would be ministering to others in His place.”¹

➤ **Reread Luke 17:1–10.**

1. In verse 2 Jesus states that “it would be better for [a person] to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.” What point is Jesus making?
2. What words, actions, or attitudes might tempt or cause another person to sin?
3. How do you think Jesus’ exhortation “So watch yourselves” (v. 3) works out practically? (Ps. 119:11; 1 Pet. 5:8–9; Col. 3:16–17; 4:2)
4. How do Jesus’ exhortations to rebuke a brother who sins and forgive a brother who repents complement one another? (Gal. 6:1; Col. 3:13–15)
5. What motivates believers to forgive generously? (Eph. 4:32—5:1)

6. In response to what Jesus has just taught them, the disciples cry out, "Increase our faith!" (v. 5). Why do you think they respond this way?

When we refuse to forgive others, we put ourselves in the place of God, the only one who knows what others do or do not deserve. When we do this, we act like masters, when we are in fact only servants. It is only by looking at the Master who became a servant and forgave us countless times that we will be able to forgive others and willingly submit to our Master as humble servants.²

7. It is not the quantity of faith, but the object of our faith that determines our ability to do what seems impossible. How does your understanding of what Jesus has done for you enable you to forgive and love others?

8. What do verses 7–10 tell us about how we are to see ourselves and to act as servants of God?

"Leprosy covered a wide range of diseases... and there was a concern to regulate it so as to protect the society and keep the ritual laws of purity. For the lepers, the terrible cost was exclusion from the life of the community and a resulting sense of social isolation."³

► **Read Luke 17:11–19.**

9. Try to picture this scene: Jesus meets ten lepers on his way to Jerusalem. They are not permitted to come close to him but cry out from a distance. What significance is there in each part of the lepers' cry – "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" (v. 13)?

10. Jesus responds to the lepers' plea by telling them to go and show themselves to the priests (who had the authority to pronounce them clean and permit them to reenter the community) and then heals them as they are on their way. Why do you think he heals them in this unusual way?

11. Only one leper, a Samaritan, returns to Jesus when he realizes he has been healed. Describe his interaction with Jesus.

12. What opportunity and blessing do the other nine miss out on?

13. Ask the Lord to show you where you have been ungrateful for his healing in your life so you can express your praise and gratitude to him.

► **Read Luke 17:20–37.**

14. What do you think Jesus means when he says to the Pharisees, “...behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst” (v. 21)?

Already Not Yet

God’s kingdom came in the person of Jesus Christ (already; vv. 20–21), but his kingdom will more fully come when Jesus returns (not yet; vv. 22–37). Both perspectives are in play in this passage.

15. In verse 22, Jesus turns to his disciples to teach them about his second coming when the kingdom will come in its fullness. What must occur before this can happen? (v. 25)

16. Why do you think Jesus uses lightning filling the sky to describe his return?

17. What kinds of things will people be doing when the kingdom comes? (vv. 27–28, 31, 34–35)

18. Why are some taken and some left behind? (Jn. 3:16–18; 5:24)

19. What takeaway does Jesus give his listeners as they wait for his return? (v. 33; Mt. 24:42–44)

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe. *An Exposition on the New Testament Comprising the Entire "BE" Series: The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton: SP Publications, Inc., 1989), 243.

² Tim Keller. "Repairing Relationships." Sermon 21 of 22, Series on Proverbs. June 5, 2005.

³ Philip W. Comfort, Gen. Ed. *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*. Vol. 12 (The Gospel of Luke; Acts) (Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2006), 236.