The Berean

Daily Verse and Comment

Luke 17:1-10

(1) Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should
come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! (2) 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. (3) Take
heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he
repents, forgive him. (4) 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.” (5) And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”
(6) 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. (7) 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’? (8) 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’? (9) Does he
thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I
think not. (10) 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.’ ”

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When God calls us, we may take our newly found power of faith for granted and may be increasingly susceptible to becoming angry at offenses and persecution. Aware of this, Jesus sought to caution His apostles against such pitfalls. In Luke 17:1-6, Jesus sets up the Parable of the Unprofitable Servants with introductory instruction. He warns His disciples of the inevitable attacks on His teaching and on those who proclaim it, pointing out the guilt of those responsible (verses 1-2). Then He admonishes them to value a loving and forgiving attitude and to be ready to pardon when an offender repents. Knowing this is difficult and seeing this weakness in themselves, the

apostles feel the need for an increase of faith, an additional amount of spiritual help to aid them in complying with Jesus' requirements.

The lesson in verses 1-6 unites with the parable in verses 7-10, which emphasizes the obligation of each disciple to serve the Master without expectation of release or reward. His followers must give complete obedience to Him no matter what trials come upon them and like Him, they must conquer their own human nature by suffering. Jesus emphasizes the kind of faith His disciples would need to endure coming trials and to obey His commands (I Timothy 1:5). This parable is designed to guard against the subtle danger in the servant who becomes satisfied with his work and expects that the Master will recognize his service with reward. Jesus impresses on His disciples the difficult and continuous service He requires of them and the attitude in which their service should be given.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:
Parable of the Unprofitable Servants

Related Topics:
Faithful Servants
Forgiving Attitude
Loving Service
Obligation, Sense of
Parable of the Faithful and Evil Servants
Parable of the Unprofitable Servants
Sacrificial Service

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