

OUR DUTY Luke 17:1-10
Sermon by Jorge Zayasbazan

I DON'T BE THE REASON SOMEONE STUMBLES

A Our duty to lead by example

1. We are to watch out for the faith of others.
 - a) Temptations are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come
 - b) Gk *skandalon*.
 - It is where we get our English word, “scandal”
 - falling away from the faith.
 - These are actions that can lead others astray.
2. When David 's sin with Bathsheba was discovered, the prophet Nathan said
 - a) By this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, 2 Samuel 12:14
3. Jesus opens our eyes to the seriousness of sin and temptations by saying,
 - a) It would be better if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.
 - b) The term “little ones” can refer to any Christian,
 - not just those who are young or new to the faith.
 - c) His words highlight the seriousness of scandal,
 - the seriousness of our sin, and the effects that they can have.

B Our duty to rebuke

1. “If your brother sins, rebuke Him
 - a) “Rebuke” is serious but not needlessly harsh
 - b) “It is not what you say, but how you say it!”
2. Sin is harmful and destructive.
 - a) We are to let our brothers and sisters know when they stray
3. Be aware of your motivation
 - a) is this rebuking meant to restore an individual to faith?
 - Will this rebuke help them grow spiritually?
 - b) Will it to embarrass or belittle?
 - c) Consider the best place and time to speak the truth in love.

C Our duty to forgive

1. It's challenging to forgive intentional sins
 - a) those which have hurt and left scarred.
 - b) those who have disappointed us.
 - c) It can be struggle to forgive and move forward.
2. The disciples understood this and said, “Increase our faith!
 - a) To forgive this way requires strength from above.
 - b) More faith, stronger faith was needed
 - c) In responding to the disciples’ cry for more faith,
 - Jesus says the issue is not of quantity, but of quality.
 - The smallest faith in Jesus can uproot and move a mulberry tree.
 - The smallest faith in Jesus can do the impossible.
3. It takes faith to do your duty,

II DOING WHAT'S EXPECTED

A If you believe that God owes you, you will be unhappy when God fails to deliver

1. Even if God gives you what you want, you'll still complain.
2. You may be like the mother whose son was blown away by a tornado.
 - a) The woman cried for help: “Please, Lord, bring back my boy! He’s all I have. I’ll do anything to get him back.”
 - b) Suddenly her son fell from the sky, right at her feet, a little shaken, but safe and sound.
3. As the mother joyfully embraced her son, she noticed something was missing,
 - a) and so she glared up at the heavens and said, “Where's his hat?”

B God owes us nothing for the good works that He creates and produces in us.

1. Whether it is rebuking sin or forgiving those who sin against us
 - a) or loving our neighbor as ourselves
 - b) all of these acts come because God made us a new creation
2. God owes us nothing for doing what we are called to do
 - a) rebuking, forgiving, and serving is our duty
3. All that we do is because he first loved us

C Jesus describes the disciple's life in terms of service.

1. Rather our rights, needs, and desires
 - a) we need to focus on how we can serve our Master.
 - JFK “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”
 - b) We are God's servants under authority,
 - When we come to God in prayer, our attitude should be: “I am Your servant.”
 - c) In consumer-driven Christianity, that's not a popular message.
 - We tend to be more concerned with what we can get from God, not what we can give Him.
 - We come to get needs met; .not to serve
2. Jesus set the standard: “The Son of Man came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).
 - a) He also said, “If I, your Master, have washed your feet...do likewise” (John 13:14).
3. Jesus makes himself the servant for our salvation.
 - a) Philippians 2:6-8: “Though he was in the form of God, [Jesus] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” And he did this in order to save his people.

III THE ATTITUDE OF A GOOD SERVANT IS TO JOYFULLY DO HIS DUTY. (17:10)

A “So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

1. “unworthy servants.” = without merit
 - a) a servant is not a volunteer
 - b) He is following orders
2. a servant is required to obey his master’s commands.
 - a) There is nothing meritorious at all in doing what he is supposed to do.
 - b) Even if a servant excels, he is still just doing his service.
3. Whatever good we do; we can only do because of God's grace.
 - a) God enables us to do our duty.
 - b) He equips us to please and glorify Him.
 - c) But we struggle with self-righteousness.

B We tend to stand up for our rights; we often feel a sense of entitlement.

1. We often confuse God with a genie
 - a) catering to our needs, granting our wishes
 - b) We think of God as a servant not as our master
 - c) He's like Santa...
 - we pray by giving Him our wish list, not by reporting for duty.
2. -Being a Christ-follower means surrendering our plans,
 - a) we die to self and give up control.
 - b) We are obedient, ready to do whatever we are asked.
3. This is discipleship
 - a) Jesus is Lord
 - b) we are under orders and submission is a matter of duty.

C Jesus invites us to sit down with him and enjoy the heavenly banquet,

1. Not because as a reward for good behavior
2. We are invited because of his amazing grace.
3. When we receive this amazing grace,
 - a) In joy we say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.”

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