

Luke 17:1-10, "The Humble will Make a Difference"

- ✚ May seem like a conglomeration of unrelated teachings, but they are all related with the single theme of humility. The key to understanding this passage is understanding how different pride is from humility. If you swear off of anything in 2023, let it be pride, because it will mess up everything for you. Read Proverbs 3:34, Proverbs 16:18, Luke 14:11, and Luke 18:14, how many times does He need to say this? What are some ways we can measure humility in 2023?
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1. By how we restrain ourselves from causing others to stumble.

- ✓ "There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting!, Luke 17:1. Bad influencers will come, don't be one of them! Humility is careful not to trip anybody up in their progress towards God, Romans 14:21. Humility doesn't do things that can be taken the wrong way as much as they can help it. Pride says, "this is my life, I'm going to do what I want." Jesus puts a really high premium on being careful about what we say, what we do, where we go, how we act.
- ✓ "It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin," Luke 17:2. "Little ones" isn't referring to physical age as much as it is to spiritual age, better understood as "new believer." It would be better for us to be executed in a very terrible way, than for us to cause one of these young believers to stumble on their way to following God. "Be on your guard!" "So, watch yourselves! If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Luke 17:3. Be careful!

2. By how quick and willing we are to forgive.

- ✓ Show me a person who's unwilling to forgive, and I will show a person who thinks they are better than most, has no real grasp on their own sin. We are all poor and in need of forgiveness, "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." Matthew 5:3. Seven times day? Yes, we give a lot because we need a lot!

3. By how aware we are of our own weaknesses.

- ✓ Notice the response of the disciples here: "The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith." Luke 17:5. They can see that they are not up to this, they need way more to live the life that Jesus is calling them to live. This is where the humble live! "This is way more than I'm capable of; this is way more than I can produce in myself," see 2nd Corinthians 12:10 and Galatians 6:1. Knowing our own weakness is a hallmark of humility. Jesus is speaking to men who would change the world; they were nobodies with no background of anything that was impressive. They were nobodies and they knew it, so they surrendered themselves to the Lord and His power in them; they believed Him and what He had called them to do. These nobodies became somebodies for sure because they had faith in Jesus and what Jesus could do through them: John 14:12. They became the foundation of the church, the authors of the New Testament because they had faith in Him and not themselves. Nobody is named after Herod, or Caesar or any of the other power brokers of that day, but they are named after Matthew, Peter, John, Paul, James, etc. These are the most famous people in the world, nobody knew that, especially not them, they just believed if they trusted Jesus and obeyed Him He would do what He said through them. What is happening today is that God is transforming people from sinners to saints making the fit for an eternity with Him. Using people who think nothing of themselves and everything of Him, who do all that they can while they can to whomever God brings into their path.

4. How can we measure Humility in 2023? By how we know that it comes by grace.

- ✓ God had to give us life so we could lay it down; gave us gifts so we could serve Him with them and gives us money so we can give to Him. It's all by grace and humility knows that.
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