

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Faith Like a Mustard Seed

Luke 17: 1-10

Luke opens this seventeenth chapter with a variety of lessons given to the disciples. It is difficult to find a common theme, a fact recognized by many commentators, and therefore it is better to take each theme or lesson as standing alone.

I. An Overview of the Themes

- A. Stumbling blocks (verses 1-2)
- B. Sin and forgiveness (verses 3-4)
- C. Faith like a mustard seed (verses 5-6)
- D. Service (verses 7-10)

II. A Closer Look

- A. Understanding sin, innocence, and the unique nature of causing children to sin
 - 1. There are no *sinless* children
 - 2. There is a type of childhood *innocence*
 - 3. Children are very vulnerable to authority figures and to being led into sin unaware
- B. Sin and forgiveness among disciples
 - 1. We have a duty to challenge one another to live Godly lives
 - 2. We must also be generous and understanding in extending forgiveness
- C. Faith and a mustard seed
 - 1. The desire: increase our faith
 - 2. The response: use the little that you have
 - a. It isn't the size of the faith—it's the size of the God that counts
 - b. Tiny mustard seeds become large shrubs
 - c. Faith will grow with use
- D. Service and expectations
 - 1. Faithful service to God is reasonably expected
 - 2. God does not reward or bless on the basis of performance
 - 3. Our relationship with God and His care and provision for us is based on His love
 - 4. Absolute devotion to His will, on the other hand, is merely what is reasonable

III. Expectations of Disciples

- A. An attitude toward sin that exercises great care toward one another, and especially toward children
- B. A growing faith that is routinely exercised
- C. An attitude toward reasonable service and appropriate expectations

Conclusion: What *course corrections* do you need to make in your life? What is God saying to you this morning? How can you trust Him more to produce these attributes in your life?

He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble. Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you. "Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending

