

**“we have only done  
our duty”**

Luke 17:1-10

**“we have only done our duty”**

**Luke 17:1-3a**

**1** Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. **2** It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. **3** So watch yourselves.

**“we have only done our duty.’ ”**

**“The members of the body  
[of Christ, the church] are  
called the “little ones.” They  
are the special objects of  
God’s tender care.”**

**Darrell Bock**

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**2 Peter 2:1-3**

**1** But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves.

**2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.**

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**Luke 3b-4**

**3b** “If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. **4** Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

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**Matthew 18:21-22**

**21** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” **22** Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

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**“To rebuke does not mean to point out every sin we see, it means to bring sin to a person’s attention with the purpose of restoring him or her to God and the fellow humans. When you feel you must rebuke another Christian for a sin, check your attitudes before you speak. Do you love the person? Are you willing to forgive? Unless rebuke is tied to forgiveness, it will not help the sinning person.”**

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**Matthew 18:15-17**

**15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.**

**16** But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ **17** If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

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**Colossians 3:13**

**13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

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**Luke 17:5-6**

**5** The apostles said to the Lord,  
“Increase our faith!” **6** He  
replied, “If you have faith as  
small as a mustard seed, you  
can say to this mulberry tree,  
‘Be uprooted and planted in the  
sea,’ and it will obey you.

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**“The disciples’ request was genuine; they wanted the faith necessary for such radical forgiveness. But Jesus didn’t directly answer their question because the amount of faith is not as important as its genuineness.**

**What is faith?**

**It is total dependence on God and a willingness to do His will. Faith is not something we use to put on a show for others. It is complete and humble obedience to God's will, readiness to do whatever He calls us to do. The amount of faith isn't as important as the right kind of faith-faith in our all powerful God.”**

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**Luke 17:7-10**

**7 “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’?**

**8** Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? **9** Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? **10** So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' ”

# **“we have only done our duty”**

**“The point of this parable was that a servant, or slave, should expect no special reward for doing what was his duty in the first place. The demanding standards Christ set (vv. 1-4) may have seemed too high to the disciples, but they represented only the minimal duties for a servant of Christ. Those who obey are not to think their obedience is meritorious.”**

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# Applications

**What are the characteristics of a true disciple?:**

- **Forgiveness**
- **Faith**
- **Servanthood**

# Final Thoughts

**“Jesus warning about being the cause of sin treats the possibility of leading others in the community into serious sin. Such defection can result from serious doctrinal deviation or be caused by dangerous practical advice about sin. The church today is prone to pay too little attention to details of doctrinal teachings in God’s revelation, a response that puts the community at risk.”**

**Darrell Bock**

# Final Thoughts

**“Do not desire to be the principle man in the church. Be lowly, be humble. The best man in the church is the one who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as God is glorified.”**

**Charles Spurgeon**

# Final Thoughts

## Matthew 20:26-28

**26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

# Final Thoughts

## John 13:12-17

**12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. **13** “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

**15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.