

## “Watch Your Life”

**Luke 17:1-19**

October 1, 2023

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- 1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they 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 would cause one of these little ones to stumble."
- 3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."
- 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."
- 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
- 6 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."
- 7 "Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?"
- 8 "But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'?"
- 9 "He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?"
- 10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

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4 areas where your life affects others:

#### **1. STUMBLING BLOCK.**

- So Jesus is specifically addressing the disciples here. Pharisees were listening.





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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 would cause one of these little ones to stumble.

- So Jesus is specifically addressing the disciples here. Pharisees were listening, "σκαρδαλιζῶ" – to trip up, to set a trap.

**Matt 18:6**

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"stumbling blocks" – to lead someone astray.

- People are going to get led astray. Don't be the one to do it.

**1 Tim 4:16**

16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching;

**James 3:1**

3 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

**Matt 23:15**

15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

- It is a serious thing to teach immature believers false teaching that would cause them to stumble/fall away.



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10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

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**2. FORGIVENESS.**

- Following on vss. 1 & 2, if someone does fall into sin, rebuke him.

- If he repents, then forgive him.

- This is a command.

- How many times do you forgive?

**Matt 18:21-22**

21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

- Pharisees were not interested in repentance and forgiveness, only "setting the trap."

- Grace and mercy were not a part of their vocabulary.

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6 *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.*

- The apostles response indicates they think this is impossible.
- They don't have enough faith to believe they would never cause someone to stumble.
- They don't have enough faith to believe they will always teach the Bible accurately.
- They don't have enough faith to believe they can always forgive someone.
- That is just too much pressure to get it right.
- But Jesus says all you need is faith like a small mustard seed.
- Mulberry tree- large, very deep roots.
- Jesus is saying that He will give them the faith needed to accomplish all that He commands.

## 2 Cor 12:10

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

## Eph 6:10

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

## Eph 3:20-21

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

## Phil 4:13

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

## Gal 2:20

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,

7 "*Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?*

8 "*But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and afterward you may eat and drink'?*

9 "*He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?*

10 "*So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"*

## 3. HUMILITY.

- The slave is just doing his job. Therefore needs no special treatment.
- The Pharisees were the opposite. They wanted to be seen. They wanted to be acknowledged for what they had done – "aren't you impressed?"
- God is not in debt to any man.
- What we do for God is what we are supposed to do. We need no fanfare. We don't need to be noticed. We don't need to draw attention to ourselves.
- Your life of humility will see through the crevices of your life and demonstrate to the world your walk with God is not a superficial, prideful form of hypocrisy.

"Lord, command what You will and grant what You command."

- Augustine

In other words -

"Lord, You can command me to do anything You want me to do as long as You'll enable me to do it."

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## Luke 17:1-19

- 11 *While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.*
- 12 *As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him;*
- 13 *and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*
- 14 *When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed.*
- 15 *Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice,*
- 16 *and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.*
- 17 *Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine — where are they?"*
- 18 *"Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"*
- 19 *And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."*

- 11 While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.**
- 12 As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him;**
- 13 and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"**

**4. GRATITUDE.**

- Jesus is on the move.

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**4. GRATITUDE.**

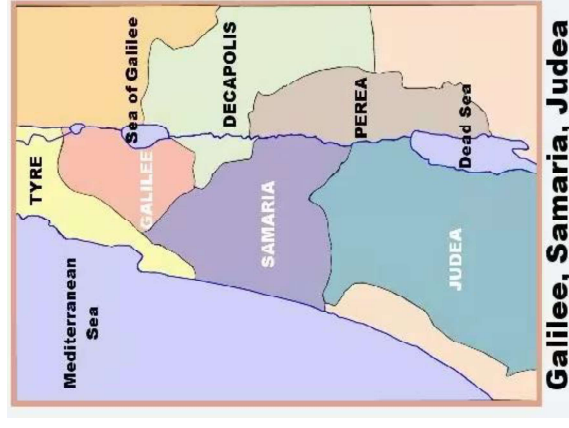
- Jesus is on the move.
- The Assyrian Captivity began in 722 B.C. Some of the Jews had intermarried with the Assyrians and had become—in the eyes of their countrymen—half-breeds and traitors. Over the centuries the Samaritans had become a mixed race with a mixed religion. So Jews hated the Samaritans and vice versa.

"ten leprous men stood at a distance" – Why?

- Leprosy.
- Pharisees saw it as divine judgment.
- **Note:** They address Jesus as 1. Master. 2. One who could have mercy of them.
- What have they got to lose? No cures. Totally desperate. No family, no job, no friends, no worship, no hope,
- No doubt they had heard. "He's here!"

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- 14** When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed.
- 15** Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.
- 17** Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine — where are they?"
- 18** "Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"
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**Galilee, Samaria, Judea**

"Leviticus 13-14 gives special instructions concerning the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy. It essentially says that any swelling or rash or skin infection must be immediately presented to the priest for his inspection. He is to examine the sore, the skin surrounding and the color of the hair within the infected area. White hair was considered to be a danger sign. The person thus inspected would be quarantined for seven days. At the end of seven days, if the infection had disappeared, the person could be readmitted to society. If not, then the person diagnosed as having leprosy was banished from society during the time of his infection."

- Ray Pritchard

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- Jesus directs them to the priest. Why? 1. To follow Lev. 13 & 14. 2. To demonstrate His Messiahship to Israel.
  - It would take 8 days. Then pronounced clean.
  - This is going to put the priest in a real bind – to confirm that Jesus did multiple miracles, which he would have to do.
  - It took faith for them to take the first step.
  - Our walk with the Lord requires a first step. God steers a moving car.
  - Noah started cutting wood. David searched for stones.
  - They were all healed "as they were going."
  - **Note:** Instantaneous and completely.

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- But not so fast. This isn't the end of the story. One of them turns back. Why?
- To express his gratitude to God, to worship and adore Him and to praise and glorify His name. He wanted more than just a healing.

Down at the cross  
Where my savior died  
Down where for cleansing  
From sin I cried  
There to my heart  
Was the blood applied  
**Glory to His name**

**"with a loud voice"** – let's do some shoutin'!

- And here is the real "kicker" – he is a Samaritan.

**17 Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine — where are they?"**

**18 "Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"**

**19 And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."**

- Where are the 9? Good question!
- The 9 Jews acted just like the crowds have acted to the miracles of Jesus – "Give us healings, give us food, cast out demons, do miracles, dazzle us with your power, but don't expect worship, don't expect gratitude." No sense of sin, no need for a Savior, no fear of judgment.
- The one who did return was not even a Jew. In fact he was despised by the Jews. But it is he that shows gratitude.

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

New converted sailor said –

"To save such a sinner as I am I...  
He shall never hear the end of it!"

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**"your faith has made you well"** – has saved you.

σωζω – to save, to make whole or complete.

- This Samaritan received 2 miracles – physical and spiritual.
- The 9 received 1.

One returned. Nine went on.

One was grateful. Nine were not.

One man found forgiveness. Nine did not.

One man got two miracles. Nine got one.

**"The Samaritan's 9 friends were declared clean by the priest, but the Samaritan was declared saved by the Son of God!"**

- Showing gratitude to God demonstrates to those around us that we are not just those who are blessed by His grace but we are also those who thank and praise Him for His grace. I not only enjoy the gift, but I remember and thank the giver.

## **Application**

1. Does your life lead people to the truth or to error?
2. Does your life show that you are quick to forgive?
3. Does your life desire personal attention which results in pride or do you walk a life of humility?
4. Does your life reflect that you are with the 9 or are you with the one? Are you thankful to God for what He has and continues to do for you, or do you just receive and move on?