

COMMENTARY

Luke:

Chapter 17:

VS. 1-10 Jesus realized that new means of sinning were going to come about. He warns those who might have any part in it that they will be judged severely. He then goes on to those who do sin. He tells us that we are to make it known to the individual and forgive him if he repents. Notice that there is no limit or stipulations on the forgiveness. As long as a person desires it; it is to be given.

Jesus then shows them how much can be accomplished if they had just a little bit of faith. He goes on to show however, that we are not to have the attitude and expectation of receiving gratitude for our service in the Kingdom; it is what we are required to do as His servants.

vs. 11-19 As was customary the lepers remained outside of the city and dared not approach any other individual. Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to the priests as required by the Jewish Law (see Leviticus 13 and 14). The men go in faith anticipating being healed. One and only one returns to thank Jesus. Oddly enough, the only one who praised God was a Samaritan and not any of the Jews. Even though they were ungrateful; Jesus still healed them.

vs. 20-37 Jesus explains that the kingdom begins inside of each individual as they accept Christ. They are not to be misled; He will return in a manner that cannot be mistaken or ignored. Until then, He would have to suffer first on the cross.

Jesus shows that many people will not be prepared; just living as if there would be no judgment. Those who are unprepared or have turned back will not enter into the kingdom but sent off into the torment of Hell. Jesus' advice is to lose your life in service to Him.

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Luke:

Chapter 18:

vs. 1- 8

The judge in the parable would have been one that had been appointed by Herod or the Roman government as the Jewish people did not have one individual who would render a decision such as the woman sought. We see here, that the judge had no concern for the woman, herself; he just wanted to get rid of her so he finally heard her case. Jesus shows that if even an unjust judge who did not care who show justice how much more would a loving Heavenly Father show justice to His chosen ones. The lesson that Jesus sought to teach was persistence in prayer. Not only being patience, but to continue in your prayer life time and time again.

vs. 9-14

The Pharisee in the parable has gone to pray. He begins claiming that he is thankful; he is not thankful at all, he is boastful. He is just patting himself on the back and refusing to recognize his need of forgiveness. He would have fasted on Monday and Thursday as was customary. The reason they would fast twice in a week like that is because the Jews felt that it was harmful to fast for any length of time.

The tax collector on the other hand, would not even lift his eyes toward God; feeling so ashamed. His behavior was similar to one who was mourning so great was his grief over his sin.

Both men received what they sought. The pharisee received admiration and a self-rightousness while the tax collector received a greater righteousness that can only come from God.

vs. 10-17

We see in Jesus' words that entrance into the kingdom comes from qualities such as: teachability, trustfulness, meekness and love. Not onarrogant boasts concerning our righteous deed and knowledge.

vs. 18-30

Jesus explains that the only one who is or can be good is God. He then shows the man his real sin; love for riches. Jesus shows that we must be willing to rid ourselves of anything that might come between God and us. Those who do will be greatly rewarded.

vs. 31-34

Jesus once again warns and tries to prepare His disciples for the events about to transpire so that when they do occur they would be prepared to handle them.

vs. 35-43

Jesus is confronted by a beggar who would not be hushed by the ones around him. Because of his insistence and desire his sight was restored. How we should be so insistent when it comes to our spiritual needs.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 17:

1. What does Jesus say is bound to come? What does He say about the one who brings them into existence?
2. When should you rebuke a fellow Christian and how?
3. How does Jesus illustrate that a little faith can do great things?
4. After a servant comes in from watching the sheep; what is his expected responsibility?
5. Who met Jesus as He was on His way to Jerusalem and what did they want?
6. What did Jesus tell them and how did they respond?
7. Where is the Kingdom of God?
8. How will we recognize the coming of Jesus?
9. What will people be doing when He returns?
10. What will happen to the one who tries to save their own life?

BONUS:

1. Compare How Jesus tells us to correct someone and forgive with what usually takes place.
2. What does Jesus teach Christians about being shown gratitude for our service in the Kingdom in His parable of the servant (vs. 7-10)?
3. How do people today (like the 9 lepers) fail to show their appreciation to God?
4. What point does Jesus make in verses 26-30?

STUDY GUIDE

Luke:

Chapter 18:

1. What happened to the widow in the parable and why?
2. What will God do for His chosen ones?
3. What was the attitude of the Pharisee in the temple and what gives you that impression?
4. What did the tax collector do and what did Jesus say about him?
5. What did Jesus say about children?
6. What did the rich man claim he had done and what more did Jesus tell him to do?
7. What did Jesus tell His disciples about the rich entering the Kingdom of God and how did He say it was possible?
8. What will happen to those who sacrificed on this earth for the Kingdom of God?
9. What did Jesus say would happen in Jerusalem and how did His disciples react?
10. What did Jesus do for the man sitting by the road near Jericho?

BONUS:

1. In what ways do we as Christians show self-righteousness at times?
2. Explain verse 17.
3. Why would it be so difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God?
4. Are Christians ever faced with the type of situation the disciples faced in verse 34? Explain.