

Luke 17:5-10. the Disciples Pray for More Faith.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of faith in overcoming the difficulty of forgiving repeated injuries and the reward of faithfulness.

Scripture: Matthew 11:30, Matthew 17:20, Luke 17:4-6, Luke 17:10, 2 Corinthians 4:17, James 1:5, Revelation 4:11

Topics: "Faith And Forgiveness", "Divine Grace"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer delves into the disciples' prayer to increase their faith, which was prompted not by a mysterious revelation but by the challenging command to forgive repeated trespasses. The internal struggle between the sense of injury and the duty to forgive can only be overcome by faith, as Jesus is the ultimate source of faith. While humans cannot bestow spiritual blessings like repentance or faith, Christ has the power to enable us to conquer deep-rooted sins and forgive even the hardest trespasses, leading us to acknowledge our unworthiness and rely on God's infinite grace and promised reward.

Transcript

Why did the disciples offer up the prayer, "Increase our faith?" Had their Lord just revealed some mystery that it was difficult to believe? No--but he had just enjoined a duty that it was difficult to practice. That duty was, "Forgiving often-repeated trespasses." Whoever has been deeply or often injured, and has endeavored freely to forgive, knows that the wicked heart rises up against the righteous deed--and that the struggle is sharp between the sense of injury and of duty. In vain the person offended reasons with himself, and urges himself to the performance of the command; his unwilling soul hangs back, and refuses to obey. What is the only remedy against this inward repugnance? Faith. Had we more faith, we should run, where now we cannot walk. The disciples felt their need of faith, and they applied to him who alone can bestow it. Jesus is the author of faith.

Though some prophets have been enabled to bestow temporal benefits, none have ever had the power to confer spiritual good. No mere man was ever known to give repentance, or to strengthen faith. But the Son of God can do all things. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of him and it shall be given him--if any man lack faith, let him ask and it also shall be given. Have we any excuse for saying, "I cannot do what my Lord commands?" Do we find it difficult to forgive repeated injuries, or great injuries, or (which is harder still) to forgive trespasses still unconfessed, there is power in Christ to enable us to overcome these mountains.

And when we have succeeded in conquering the deep-rooted sins of our hearts, what ought to be our feeling then? Our Savior teaches us what it ought to be. When we have done all that was commanded, we

must say, "We are unprofitable servants--we have done that which was our duty to do." But we have never done all, or half, or a hundredth part of the things that were commanded us. We are not only unprofitable, but we are provoking and guilty servants. Had we not the God of all patience for our master, we should have been dismissed long ago from his service. But instead of dismissing us, he treats us in the most generous manner. His yoke is easy and his burden is light, while his reward is a weight of glory. He is so infinitely gracious, that after having borne with our imperfect services, he has promised to say to each who sincerely loves him, "Well done, good and faithful servant--enter into the joy of your Lord."

The thought of receiving such commendation ought to humble us more than the severest reproof. It will humble those who shall receive it. Every one of them will cast his crown of life at the feet of Him who bestowed it, and say, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power." (Rev. 4:11.)

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