

LUKE Lesson 45

(Chapter 17:1-19)

12 April 2019

THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT OFFENDING (Vs 1-2)

Consider the feelings and sensitivities of others and be careful how you treat them and what you say to them.

This is so important to the Lord that He indicates that you'd be better off dead than to offend His people.

James 3:1-2 We've got to speak the truth from God's word. That truth may offend if it's not spoken in love. Without that love, our dogmatic, inflexible teaching will result in driving people away from the Savior instead of bringing them to Him. An imperfect man will offend.

Rom 14:21 We have liberty as Christians (1 Cor 6:12, 10:23, Titus 1:15), but we need to restrain that liberty if it might cause a brother to stumble (1 Cor 8:9).

Not sure if you should do something or not? Stop asking "*What's wrong with it?*" and instead ask, "*What's right about it?*" If there's a chance it will offend somebody, don't do it. If the world thinks it's dirty, don't do it (Rom 14:14, 1 Thess 5:22).

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Vs 3-4)

Take heed: watch for the dangers involved, carefully observe and regard with care.

To yourselves: your biggest problem is yourself, not your brother or sister in Christ.

When? When **thy brother trespass against thee**. Offenses will come (vs 1)

Take action: **rebuke him** (Prov 27:5). Tell him his fault (Mt. 18:50). Tell him how he's hurt you or offended you or stumbled you (Prov 29:5, Lev 19:17).

Forgive him: as Christ hath forgiven you (Col 3:13). When did Christ forgive you? When you repented (Acts 3:19, 17:30, 26:20, Rev 3:19-20). When you forgive, you also need to forget; put it behind you (Ps 103:12, Isa 44:22, Num 23:21). Don't let the same arguments repeat because you failed to forgive and forget.

How often? 20 times per hour (Matt 18:21-22)—IF they repent. What if they don't? —If you're dealing with a heretic, reject them after the second admonition (Titus 3:10). In other situations, there are biblical procedures (Matt 18:15-17). "**If he repent, forgive him.**" Any sinner who doesn't repent doesn't have God's forgiveness.

We need to have the mindset of restoring people into fellowship; not condemning them. Jesus set the example (Mt. 12:20, Jn 8:11, Luke 7:47, 19:9-10).

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH (Vs 5-6)

The disciples thought they needed great faith to enable them to follow the Lord's instructions concerning treatment of others, not offending, forgiving, and restoring fellowship.

It only takes a little faith to accomplish great things because we have a great God. That's where the emphasis must be placed. It's not about us, it's about the Lord. Jesus' illustration shows that there are some things that are impossible for you to do naturally, but with just a little faith in God, anything is possible.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING OUR LIFE IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD (Vs 7-10)

We owe our very lives to the Lord. He bought us with a great price (1 Cor 6:20, 7:23, Gal 2:20). It is our duty to serve Him obediently without complaint and without expectation of reward (vs 9).

Today it is time to labor for the Lord. Rest will come later (Rev 14:13). Today what we call our "spare time" really belongs to the Lord. He has the right to expect our faithful fulltime service.

THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEYING THE WORD OF THE LORD (Vs 11-14)

These lepers wanted Jesus to heal them. Jesus was willing, so He gave them a command that they could choose to obey or disobey (vs 14). If they obeyed (by faith), they'd be healed. If they disobeyed and ignored His command, they would remain lepers.

These lepers all obeyed Jesus. They proceeded toward the temple to show themselves to the priests even before their leprosy was healed. They had faith to believe that Jesus had healed them. As they went, they were cleansed (vs 14).

THE IMPORTANCE OF GLORIFYING GOD (Vs 15-19)

One of the former lepers turned back to Jesus and with a loud voice glorified God.

¹⁶ **And fell down on his face at his feet..."** Jesus received this man's worship without rebuke because Jesus is God and He is worthy of our worship (Mat 2:11, 9:18, 14:33, Mk 5:22, 33, 7:25, Luke 5:8, Jn 11:32, Rev 4:10).

Acts 10:25-26, Peter did not receive worship.

Rev 19:19, the heavenly messenger refused worship.

Rev 22:8-9, an angel wouldn't let John worship him.

Acts 14:14, Paul and Barnabas rejected the people's worship.

One leper out of ten returned to give thanks to Jesus (vs 16). This represents the percentage of people who, after being miraculously saved by Jesus, will follow Him and serve Him all the days of their life. 1 out of 10! People want to be saved from Hell, but they don't want to live for the Lord.

Notice also that when you publicly give thanks to God (vs 16), you are glorifying God (vs 15). You are giving Him credit for the wonderful things He has done.
