

Forgiveness: A Hard Thing To Do

Luke 17:1-10

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Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. Jas 3:2 (NLT)

Offenses are inevitable.

1. The Offense of False Teachers is **devastating** (v.1-2)
 - a. Little ones stumble when leaders give an **example** of unbelief.
 - b. Little ones stumble when leaders create **doubts** in their minds.
 - c. Severe punishment awaits the **hypocritical offenders**.
2. Offenses even among believers are **inevitable** (v.3-4)
 - a. Christianity is personal but it is not **private**.
 - b. Christianity is to be lived out in **community**.
 - c. The unity of the Christian community (church) is of **highest** importance.
3. Forgiving offenses requires **great faith** (v.5-6)
 - a. **Confront** the offending brother/sister (rebuke him) – confrontation is hard to do.
 - b. **Forgive** your offending brother/sister. Forgiveness is hard to do
 - c. Forgive your offending brother **obediently**.
 - i. It is not the volume of our faith but the **presence** of our faith that moves mountains.
 - ii. It is not the volume of faith but the **act** of faith that grants forgiveness.
4. Forgiving offenses is our **humble duty** (v.7-10) He is the master and we are his servants (*doulos* = slaves).
 - i. Like a slave requires no special thanks for doing his duty; we deserve no **special credit** for forgiving our fellow servant.
 - ii. We have all the **faith** we need to obey God's command to forgive.
 - iii. Forgiven people **forgive people!** Set them free so **you can be free**.