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Luke 17

Ecclesiastes 10:2 A wise man's heart inclines to the right, but the heart of a fool to the left.

May 10, 2020

These next verses seem to come out of nowhere and many commentators just put these into the category that Luke had this teaching in mind and simply placed it here in what is now Luke 17. However, there is a commentary called Pulpit Commentary written by a variety of pastors over the years that take a different look at these verses as connecting to the previous parables in Luke 16 and it seems to make sense to me. It is of course up to each of you as you study these verses to come to your own conclusions.

Temptations and Trespasses

(Matthew 18:7-9; Mark 9:42-50)

1Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come! 2It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

To begin I had always assumed that “these little ones” was a reference specifically to children, which it may be, but in the

broader sense it could mean a young Christians or people searching for the Truth in a very infantile way.

The thought here is that Jesus is speaking about an offense committed by one person to another. More specifically a believer committing an offense to another younger believer or someone searching for Christ, the Truth.

Jesus says it is a foregone conclusion that some offenses would come about, it is simply the matter of things as we walk out life even as Christians, we will offend one another. The real issue being; was it intentional and are we willing to repent and apologize to those we offend.

Even unintended offenses can be smoothed out by a simple apology quite often. But an offense left unresolved can indeed cause lifelong barriers even effecting one's ability to walk with Christ. It is those offense that Jesus is speaking of here. Jesus states that it would have been better to have died before causing the kind of offense that would keep someone from coming to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Now for clarification, if a believer offends some young person or some young Christian in a way that would cause that young person to reject Christ then Jesus is saying that it would have

been better if the offending believer had died than to do this. The death of the believer in this case would have removed the obstacle that kept this young person from coming to Christ. The offending believer was still saved and would be with Christ, but the offense would not have happened if the believer was not alive to commit the offense. I know that is a bit convoluted but study it out in that context and come to your own conclusion. The key is repentance on the part of the offender.

3Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.
4And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Jesus immediately moves into the believer/believer relationship and gave a clear commandment. We are always wondering what the commandments of Jesus are that to be followed if we love Him, so here is one.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Vs 3 clearly gives commandment that if a brother (or sister is included) “trespass against thee”; rebuke him or her, and if they repent “forgive” them. Pretty clear, but think for a moment, we often hear people say they are going to forgive someone who has never sought forgiveness.

Q. How does that work?

I believe the Bible will tell us that repentance is a part of the workings of God in order to bring about a contrite spirit. Where there is no repentance the growth of the believer is stunted sometimes even destroyed. God was clear;

Q. What is forgiveness based on? Repentance

*Acts 3:19 **Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*

*Acts 26:18 **18**To **open their eyes**, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they **may receive forgiveness of sins**, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

19**Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: **20**But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Salvation is not by any works, but repentance is a work of sanctification, a “**works meet for repentance**”. Salvation is a free gift but as we walk out life and we offend people it is incumbent upon us to repent of those offense which is part of the sanctification process. It is God’s plan on how we grow in Faith and Love.

The idea of repenting is an act of Faith and Love, just like redemption is an act of Faith and Love. God said that on the other side of repentance is a relationship. Relationships are built on Truth and Love and if the chiasm between us is due to some offense then we have to bridge that chasm with repentance.

If we simply forgive people without their coming to repentance we have enabled them to not grow in that Truth. This may be the very thing Jesus is speaking of in vs 1;

1Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

There are many offenses that we may accidentally thrust on our brothers and sisters, but a very serious one may be not allowing them to learn about the value of repentance. It is the essence of being born again. Without repentance there is no forgiveness of sin.

Luke 13:3 3I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

The Power of Faith

([Matthew 17:14-21](#); [Mark 9:14-29](#); [Luke 9:37-42](#))

5And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.
6And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Jesus's answer to the request is not a verbal NO, but His response is definitely a No to having Him give them more Faith.

Q. So how does faith work or more specifically how does it grow?

We see the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith and He does not do that, instead He gives them an example of the power of Faith and within His response is the manner in which God intends our faith to increase.

I think perhaps that Faith or the growth of Faith is inextricably linked to our sanctification walk. As we walk through life, we will encounter challenges of all sorts; how we deal with those challenges will determine the next step in Faith growth and in Sanctification growth.

If we seek God first on every issue and are obedient to His Will and the leading of the Holy Spirit our Faith is assured to grow as will our sanctification through the power of the Holy Ghost. If on the other hand, we allow others to determine our walk and or we look to man or government to determine our walk then neither Faith nor Sanctification can grow because we are relying on neither on God nor our Faith.

This next verse has always been a head scratcher for me, but I think I comprehend now what Jesus is saying.

7But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Before we unpack these verses let's get a little word out of the way. The last part of verse in the KJV uses the word "trow". It means in English, "I think not".

This entire set of verses is demonstrating a chain of command. The owner of the farm has an employee. The employee is given

various tasks to perform during the day. At the end of the day the owner of the farm or master, does not bestow a crown upon the head of the worker and have him sit down while the master prepares the meal it is still the chain of command and the worker serves the master.

In our situation we are the workers and Jesus is the Master. He has tasks for us to complete as Born-Again Believers and members of the Bride of Christ the CHURCH that Jesus started. When we finish a day's task for Christ, we are not given a crown of victory, that crown of victory will not be given until the Bema Seat of Christ; when Christians are judged for the work they performed in the Name of Jesus to the Glory of God.

Strong's Concordance defines "Judgement Seat"

Transliteration: **béma**

Phonetic Spelling: (bay'-ma)

Definition: a step, raised place, by implication a tribunal

Usage: an elevated place ascended by steps, a throne, tribunal.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the **judgment seat** of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Philippians 2:10 [10](#)That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; [11](#)And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Until that day comes or until you die or are raised at the Rapture, we will continue to serve Jesus, day and night. Before our meals and after our meals, we are to serve Him, and we do that by serving and loving others that need help. We do that by sharing the Good News; (The Great Commission) with those who are searching for the Truth. We do that by praying for our enemies; all of them, turning from sin in our own lives and walking with Christ in Righteousness.

The end of verse 10;

“We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

This is our mantra as believers. We were saved when we were guilty and deserved death. We are honored to serve the Risen Savior, but we are still unworthy of His Love, His Mercy, His Grace and His Gift of Redemption, but nonetheless we have received it because of His Love, His Mercy and His Grace.

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

[\(2 Kings 5:1-14\)](#)

This was a long arduous journey for Jesus that will see Him in Jerusalem for the Crucifixion. He caused many miracles to be done during this three year ministry and herein is another miracle with an interesting thing to learn.

11And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

It appears that as we have seen before Jesus simply speaks healing and if those who are commanded to do a certain thing abide in that commandment they are healed. Similar to the healing of Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, in 2 Kings 5. Jesus spoke and told these 10 men with leprosy to go show the Priests; as they carried out the commandment they were healed.

15And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Of the ten only one was grateful to the point of giving worship and thanks to God. It turns out that by implication 9 were Israelites

and one was a Samaritan, meaning from Samaria. We have discussed at length the hatred of the Jews by the Samaritans and vice versa. Jesus who came to Save Israel, healed without condition in this case a Samaritan and 9 Israelis.

17And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine? 18There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. 19And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

The implication here is that one of the nine received a further gift the one called Faith. Even though the 9 through obedience proceeded to do as told, this one realized that there was more to asking and receiving; he realized that one must worship the giver in Truth and Light. Which of the 10 would then continue on this path of growing in Faith and Sanctification? The one who worshiped the Creator and gave thanks and praise to Jesus the Son of the Living God.

The Coming of the Kingdom

20And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

The Kingdom of God resides within the believer at this point here on earth. It used to reside in the Temple but that was destroyed, after God departed from earth.

He sent His Son, His Only Son back to earth to reclaim the Kingdom and establish it for the time being within the hearts of the believers. Israel in their myopic view wanted a real dirt and brick kingdom with a real warrior ruler who would vanquish their enemies. They did not want a Savior, but we sure do.

There were hard lessons to be learned by the religious people of that day. They were so convinced that they had the whole truth that they were unwilling to listen to the Truth Giver and understand that the Truth of God is like the proverbial onion, it is layer upon layer of Truth. Truth that we cannot even conceive of at this point in our lives, the revelation of how God created the universe, we can only guess. Science is useless unless it pursues the Truth aside from political correctness. Truth is Truth and it is only found in God and in His Word.

I found this article today and would not recommend your taking the time to read it other than to see the absolute destitution of unbelief that this author has attained.

When I saw the title of this article below on Yahoo I had to read it; to see how truthful this author

would be and how honest Yahoo would be in reporting on what this author stated. Neither is truthful or honest other than they correctly spelled the name of Jesus. The article is a waste of time and I feel dumber just having read it.

Yahoo Entertainment

What Jesus Really Said About Heaven and Hell

Bart D. Ehrman

[Time](#) May 8, 2020, 11:32 AM MDT

Comments:

Chris wrote 2 days ago

Thank you for clearing up what Jesus really said, Yahoo. Next, please clarify how God created the universe...I'm sure you have inside information.

Ally wrote 2 days ago

I would expect as much accuracy on Christianity from the Yahoo Entertainment section as I would news about the Kardashians in the Bible.

The arrogance of science today is to disprove all notions of a divine Creator. They wallow in the mud of man's knowledge forsaking the pure water of God's Knowledge and undeniable Truth. All we can say to them is; "knock yourself out and good luck with that".

22And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see *it*.

Jesus is telling His disciples that a day will come when they will want to return to the days they were sitting in at that moment.

When their advisories will be so bold and brutal that the disciples will long for just one more day with the Messiah to be in their midst to talk to them to comfort them in the flesh. Without saying it He is declaring that at His ascension they will not see Him again, until they die, or He returns for His Bride.

My sense is that if Jesus tarries much longer, we too will long for the days when we could worship in freedom. That freedom is being eroded as we have seen over the past 8 weeks. Christians being told they could not worship; do you really think that was just a medical decision. I think Satan has a strangle hold on American politics and his intent is to destroy our Constitution that protects our right to worship freely. There are evil people in positions of power;

Ephesians 6: [10](#)Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. [11](#)Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12](#)For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness **of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13](#)Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14](#)Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; [15](#)And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16](#)Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. [17](#)And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

What God describes here is not your “Sunday go to meet in clothes”, this is battle array. Being mentally, physically and Spiritually prepared for the battle. In my opinion the churches of America failed woefully in this most recent battle. They cowered at the thought of an unseen enemy running roughshod over them. Disappointing! When a second wave of cases hits what will the churches do then? Will they continue to cower or will they stand and speak with boldness?

Ephesians 6 continuing;

18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, **that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,** 20For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

23And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after *them*, nor follow *them*.

There were many false prophets and false messiahs of the days of the early Church. We have seen more come and go over the years and there are many deceived this very day around the world by false prophets and false teachers that are convincing people to follow them that they alone have the correct understanding. Denomination after denomination, false religion after false religion, all declaring that they have the answer the

only answer. In that light don't ever look to any man for the answer but be diligent about your study of God's Word and work out your own salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

There will be a day come when the world is in turmoil and they will be looking for a savior and when that world savior steps forward, he will be loved by the world and he will be the Anti-Christ. He will be joined by the Beast and the False Prophet to deceive the world.

24For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one *part* under heaven, shineth unto the other *part* under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

One sign that will be evident to the world at the return of the True Savior will be that He will be seen worldwide without the need of technology. His appearance will be so bright and undeniable that no one will doubt who He is. They won't necessarily like it, but they will understand it and every knee will bow.

25But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

The crucifixion.

26And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Jesus is alluding to the conditions on earth when He will return. The time of Noah was filled with sensuality. The Bible uses such a word to describe the wantonness of the flesh in direct opposition to the Spirit of God. The Greek word for “sensuality” in Strong’s Concordance is;

Transliteration: aselgeia

Phonetic Spelling: (as-elg'-i-a)

Definition: licentiousness, wantonness

Usage: (outrageous conduct, conduct shocking to public decency, a wanton violence), wantonness, lewdness.

The definition unfortunately recognizes the authority of morality as “public decency” not Godly Morality. In the days of Noah and what is to come that public decency will be as nothing. We have seen and continue to see the moral decadence of America and the world. There is nothing one human being will not do to another human being; NOTHING!

27They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all.

We all know of the debauchery in Sodom and Gamora when Lot was there. We saw the lasting effects it had on his daughters

even after they escaped. Genesis 19:30 and on. That sensuality has only expanded and grown as we edge closer to Jesus return.

30Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his **stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32Remember Lot's wife. 33Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.**

These verses reveal how difficult it will be for people to let go of their belongings if that is what is important to them. When the moment comes, the trumpet sounds and the shout goes out for Rapture, not a second is to be lost in abandoning all that we have on this earth in exchange for all that Jesus has to offer us in heaven. Hopefully Jesus will find us with our shoulders to the plow; Carrying out the Great Commission. But when we hear the trumpet and see our Lord coming in the clouds, immediately let go of the plow. For those who hesitate it will be revealed who or what they truly worship, and it is not Jesus. They are lost.

What is to follow is the description of the Rapture.

***1 Thessalonians 4: 17*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

34I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. 35Two *women* shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 36Two *men* shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

The Rapture will occur and now the disciples want to know where this will happen.

37And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body *is*, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

The body spoken of here, is indicative of a dead person. If the person is indeed dead, then the vultures will surely be there to feast.

If on the other hand the body was surrendered to Christ and the person is with Christ, then they will join in the Feast of the Lamb, not being devoured by vultures but enjoying the Wedding Supper with the Lamb of God.