



Forgiveness and Faith Luke 17:1-10

Something to Start Us Off

- What is something difficult you have personally seen God do after prayer.

Something to Notice

- According to Jesus, what punishment would be considered mild for the one who causes offenses or “stumbling blocks” to others?
- Again, according to Jesus, how many times should we forgive our repentant brother?
- What is the request that the apostles have for Jesus that prompts him to give the lessons of vv.6-10?

Something to Understand

The word for “stumbling block” or “offense” in Greek is *skandalon*, from which we get our word *scandal*. In its original meaning the word referred to a stick that was the trigger for a trap.

The word for “faith” is *pistis*, which includes elements not only of faith and trust, but also fidelity or faithfulness. That may help explain Jesus’ response, which involves the fulfillment of our duties.

- Why do you think it is such a serious thing to cause someone else to stumble?
- Try to put Jesus’ lesson on forgiveness in vv.3-4 into your own words.
- The moving of a mulberry tree by faith is certainly an extreme example. Is there something difficult you are praying about that you might be willing to share with us?
- Do you find it easier to think about what God does for us, or what our obligations are toward him? What reasons might people have for leaning one way or the other?

Something to Take Home

- Based on our study of this section of Luke 17, which lesson seems most relevant to you?
- Is there anything else this look at Luke 17:1-10 that you especially want to remember for future reference? Can you explain why?