**LESSONS FROM LUKE 17**

The Lord Jesus addresses and describes His followers in Luke 17:1-19.

1. **Watch yourselves! (Read Luke 17:1-3a)**

In the context of Luke, this warning seems to be regarding false doctrine especially with the Pharisees before Him. Jesus’ warning is that death now is better than the woe this person would receive! The Pharisees had refused to enter the kingdom of God by rejecting Jesus and His claims and were leading others to do the same. V.3 “Watch yourselves” is a warning to all of us! Watch your teaching, your lifestyle, your attitudes! Will you take time now in prayer, asking the Lord to examine your life in these areas?

1. **Forgiveness (Read Luke 17:3b-4)**

Not only is a true follower of Jesus never to cause another to sin, but a Christian is always to counteract sin by forgiving others! A Christian is to rebuke gently and in love confront the one involved in sin. Coupled with the duty to rebuke is the responsibility to forgive. Why? Christians are to remember who they are. A true believer has been forgiven by Almighty God, having sinned far more against the Lord than another could sin against them. Before you quickly say you are forgiving, will you ask the Lord to show you where unforgiveness is in your life? Who are you counting the number of times they have sinned against you? Will you stop, taking time with the Lord, and review every area of your life? Ask Him to show you any pocket of unforgiveness. Ask Him to forgive you. Go forth in His power to show forgiveness to all around you.

1. **True Faith (Read Luke 17:5-6)**

It was as though the disciples were thinking of a difficult person in their lives and they cry out, “Increase our faith!” They made the connection between having faith and having the ability to forgive. They knew they had to have genuine faith to be able to adequately rebuke and forgive others. If one has trouble forgiving, there is the need to remember God is in control; HE is not slumbering; He loves us; He will take care of us; and He is equitable. One should trust Him and take the step and forgive others. The Lord’s answer in v.6 reveals it is not more faith that is needed, but true faith! Where do you find true faith? It is a gift that must be received (See Eph.2:8-9). Romans 10:17 “Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the word of God”. Do you know for certain you have received the gift of faith?

1. **Humility (Read Luke 17:7-10)**

Jesus gives a mini parable with 3 rhetorical questions (answers no/yes/final no) regarding a slave and master. A true believer remembers they are an unworthy servant and they live and act humbly, not expecting anything, but serving and fulfilling their responsibilities. How well do you respond when someone treats you like a servant? Is your life marked with true humility, understanding who you are and Who God is?

1. **Thankfulness (Read Luke 17:11-19)**

Jesus healed the 10 lepers. Only one came back to thank Him. Are you quick to say that you would be like this one that returned, but in reality, are you ungrateful and oblivious to the many blessings the Lord has given you? This one leper shows us that our praise to God must be radically Christ-centered. Is yours? Are you markedly grateful in your life, choosing to deliberately thank the Lord? Remember the 9 lepers who didn’t return. Just imagine some of the excuses they allowed to keep them from coming to the Lord. Is the same happening in your life?

The Lord Jesus describes His kingdom in Luke 17:20-37.

**His Kingdom is NOW:**

Read Luke 17:20-21 The phrase “in the midst of you” points to the presence of the kingdom in the Person of Jesus Christ. Where Jesus Christ is, the Kingdom of God is! Is He now in your heart?

1 Cor 3:16 “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

John 14:23 “Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

**His Kingdom is NOT YET:**

From the notes, Herschel Hobbs says, “The kingdom of God is a present reality and a future hope”.

His physical kingdom will be ushered in when the Lord Jesus comes for the Second Time. Revelation 21:1-4

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

DO YOU KNOW WITH CERTAINTY YOU WILL BE THERE? IS THAT YOUR HOPE, RESTING ON THE LORD AND HIS WORD?