

## Lesson 17

## Luke 17

## Sayings and Lepers

**Note:** *Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. Luke records various sayings of Jesus, the story of a grateful Samaritan leper, and Jesus' apocalyptic vision on "the day that the Son of Man is revealed." (Luke 17:30) A challenging chapter to comprehend!*

1. Jesus told his disciples that "temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to him by whom they come." Who do you think Jesus is warning not to lead others astray? Why? (Luke 17:1-2; James 3:1-2)
2. *Reflection:* How can someone lead another person to sin? Give an example.
3. If you are a teacher (disciple) and you see another teacher causing one to stumble, what is Jesus' two-stage rule you are to follow? (Luke 17:3-4; Romans 14:13)
4. Why is never-ending forgiveness an essential condition in the kingdom of God, such that Jesus says, "You *must* forgive"? (Luke 17:3-4)

**Note:** *When the apostles asked Jesus to "increase our faith" (Luke 17:5), Jesus again referred to the size of a mustard seed (Luke 13:18-19) and a sycamine tree (also called a mulberry tree) which was known to have one of the deepest root systems of all the trees in the Middle East. It grew to a height of 30 or more feet and was difficult to kill. Jesus used this tree as an example of bitterness and unforgiveness which can grow very quickly. Sycamine wood was used for building caskets and coffins. It also shows that bitterness and unforgiveness are deadly.*

5. *Reflection:* If you serve in many different ministries in the church, do you think you should receive special recognition? Why or why not? (Luke 17:10)
6. Jews and Samaritans were bitter enemies, yet there was one Samaritan among the ten lepers who approached Jesus. Why do you think he was allowed among the Jewish lepers? (Luke 17:12-14)
7. Why would Jesus make a point of noticing that the Samaritan leper who returned to give thanks was a "foreigner"? (Luke 17:16) Was Jesus implying that the Jews were ungrateful, or something else?
8. Like many Jews of that time, the Pharisees imagined the establishment of the kingdom of God in terms of external, political authority. When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God was coming, how did he answer them? (Luke 17:20-21)
9. What is Jesus' basic advice to those who worry about when the day of the Son of Man will come? (Luke 17:23)
10. Jesus said: "Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it." (Luke 17:33)
  - a. What ways do people use to make their life secure?
  - b. How does this saying relate to Luke 9:23-26?

***If you would like a challenge?***

11. If you truly believed Jesus' simple answer about the presence of the kingdom of God within us at this moment (Luke 17:21), how would it change your life?