

# SERMON LISTENING WORKSHEET

**Date:** May 4, 2025

**Passage:** Luke 17:1-10

**Title:** Are We That Kind of Church?

## Sermon Focus

Following Jesus involves putting others' spiritual good above your own rights and seeking their spiritual good even when it is painful. In other words, it requires real faith.

## Sermon Summary

### I. Introduction: Jesus' Teaching His Disciples (v.1)

- Jesus shifts focus from rebuking Pharisees to teaching His followers (v.1).
- This section is very practical—it's about discipleship and how to live as a Christian.

### II. Warning: Don't Be a Stumbling Block (v.1–3)

- Temptations are inevitable, but don't be the cause of someone else's sin.
- Better to die than to cause spiritual harm to others ("little ones" = the spiritually vulnerable).
- Pharisees were examples of this danger—religious but harmful.

### III. Challenge: Watchfulness, Self-Examination and Pursuing Others (v.3-4)

- Jesus commands: "Pay attention to yourselves."
- Avoid being like the Pharisees—outwardly religious but inwardly selfish and proud.
- Real discipleship means being concerned about others' spiritual well-being, not just your own behavior.
- If someone sins against you: rebuke, and if they repent—even repeatedly—**forgive**.
- This is uncomfortable and hard, but it's required.
- Forgiveness is not about what feels fair—it's about grace and love.

### V. Response: "Increase Our Faith" (v.5–6)

- The apostles are overwhelmed and ask for more faith.
- Jesus responds: You don't need more faith—just real faith.

### VI. Explanation: What's Needed is Authentic Faith (v.7–10)

- Story of servant and master: Servants don't expect praise for doing their duty.
- True faith begins with **humility**—recognizing God is the Master, not us.
- God owes us nothing; everything we receive is grace.

### VII. Application: True Faith Leads to Graciousness

- If we understand how undeserving we are of God's grace, we'll be gracious to others.
- This shapes how we treat people—especially the broken, sinful, and difficult.
- Are we living as humble, forgiving, outward-focused followers of Jesus?

- Are we the kind of church who goes after people others think are broken? Is willing to develop genuine relationships with people who are messy? Is patient with people who are difficult? Who forgives even when it doesn't seem to make sense?

### **Some Key Quotes**

- "True faith begins with humility—understanding that God doesn't exist for us, we exist for God."
- "If you have faith it will change your attitude toward God and IT SHOULD CHANGE your attitude toward other people."
- "Are you willing to joyfully do something difficult for the spiritual good of someone else who will only make your life more difficult?"

### **Some Important Concepts**

- "We are unworthy servants"  
Faith requires humility before God—"God doesn't exist for us. We exist for God."
- "Pay attention to yourselves"  
Jesus warns against becoming a "spiritual stumbling block" and commands a lifestyle of self-examination rooted in love for others:
- "You don't need more faith. You need to exercise faith."  
When faced with hard commands—rebuke, forgiveness, sacrifice—the apostles say, "Increase our faith." But Jesus answers: "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed." In other words, no more excuses! Just a drop of actual faith will do it.

### **Some Questions To Think About**

- What does it mean to be a stumbling block in today's context?
- Why does Jesus use such extreme language about judgment?
- How can we forgive repeatedly without becoming bitter?
- What are modern examples of Pharisee-like religion?
- How can you tell if your faith is authentic?
- How does pride undermine forgiveness?
- Why is humility foundational to Christianity?
- What practical steps help build "mustard seed" faith?
- How does our view of God influence how we treat others?