

## Reflection Questions: Luke 17.1-10

For the message, "Increase Our Faith?" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 6, 2022

---

*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](https://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 17:1-10

1 And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin [literally, "stumbling blocks"] are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. 3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6 And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

7 "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? 8 Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Summary of our study:

- Jesus knows that our faith needs to be increased, but he's also challenging us to do what he is calling us to do (even seemingly impossible things like forgiving someone over and over again) with the faith that we do have by trusting that God's power meets us in our weakness.

---

### **QUESTIONS**

1. In verse 1 Jesus talks about those who, like the religious leaders, are trying to trip people up who are responding to the message that Jesus is proclaiming. Why do you think Jesus used such drastic language in verse 2 about millstones and necks and seas?
2. In verse 3, Jesus pivots from talking about folks who cause others to stumble to helping people when they have fallen into sin. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him...." How do these simple instructions strike you? What do you find helpful? What do you find challenging?

3. In response to Jesus instructions about repeatedly forgiving someone, the disciples respond by saying, "Increase our faith!" Put yourselves in their sandals. Why do you think they said this?
4. In the illustration of the mulberry tree, Jesus seems to be saying that we can do the seemingly impossible things that he calls us to even if we have just a little bit of faith.
5. In the illustration about the servant in verses 7-10, Jesus says, "...when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"
  - How does this connect with what Jesus has been teaching about forgiveness? In other words, if we do what Jesus calls us to do, namely being generous with our forgiveness, is that a sign of great faith or a sign of genuine faith, even if it is small?
6. How does the gospel of Jesus and what he has done for us (especially on the cross), give us every reason to be generous in our forgiveness of others? Discuss.
7. How does this text clarify what God wants to do in my life? How would you answer the question, "What kind of me is God calling me to be?"

### CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

### PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_