

Luke 17:1-19

1. What is the message of this parable? How does it warn us against thinking we can earn God's love?
2. If we want to "do our duty" what do verses 1-4 tell us about the minimum requirement? Notice Jesus is not offering suggestions but telling us what must be our attitude and action. So what must we never do and what must we always do? You should be able to identify 3-4 commands.
3. The disciples respond to Jesus' minimal requirements of duty in verse 5 by saying; "increase our faith" which is another way of saying, this is completely impossible! If we can't negotiate w/ God to bless us because we do our duty perfectly all the time, every time without exception, how can we be in a relationship with him?
4. Read verses 11-19. Lepers were the outcasts of society. They couldn't hold down a job, go to the Synagogue or Temple, they had to stay away from healthy people which means they couldn't have close interaction even with their own family. What is it they ask of Jesus? Why didn't they call out, "Lord please show us our duty so we can work hard and please you?"
5. Look carefully at Jesus' response. What DOESN'T he say? What is he asking of the lepers? (To get back into normal society once one was free from leprosy one had to go to the priest and be declared "clean.")
6. When the leper's trusted Jesus and went along to the priest they were healed and one came back to give praise where it was due. What does this tell us about the connection between faith and praise? Why are both important for the believer?
7. How much trust did it take for the lepers to go show themselves to the priest? What would have happened if they hadn't been healed? Would they have been any worse off than they had been before? It seems that they needed enough faith to say, "well what do I have to lose?" "Why not trust Jesus and give this a try?" It doesn't seem like a huge amount of faith was required by Jesus before he healed these men.
8. Read verse 6 and see what Jesus says about how much faith we need.
9. Are you trying to be in relationship with God by performing your duty so he will approve of you? What does this passage tell you about that approach?
10. Do you believe you have faith? If so, do you see both trust in and worship of God in your life? How is your faith manifest in your life?
11. Thought to consider: "God is not moved by our duty, but by our desperation." Dr. Bryan Chappell