

CHAPTER 17

THEN said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come!

2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

3 ¶ Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle,

will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

11 ¶ And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw *them*, he

said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

20 ¶ And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see *it*.

23 And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after *them*, nor follow *them*.

24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one *part* under heaven, shineth unto the other *part* under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down

to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two *women* shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two *men* shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body *is*, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

CHAPTER 18

AND he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while:

but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

9. And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote

upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

15. And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when *his* disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them.

16 But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

18. And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they that heard *it* said, Who then can be saved?

27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

31 ¶ Then he took *unto him* the

twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spit-
ted on:

33 And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

35 ¶ And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

37 And they told him, that Jesus

of Nazareth passeth by.

38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, *thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise unto God.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 17 Jesus gives instructions in forgiveness and service. It should be read very carefully and applied to our daily living. In verse 3 Jesus says, "...If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." Verse 4 tells us that our forgiveness should be unlimited. It is often hard for us to forgive, because we have been deeply hurt in some way. We should remember that Christ is not only our Saviour, but our Example. His instructions to us, and His life before proved to be one of love and forgiveness. If we are to be like Him, we must forgive those who trespass against us.

In chapter 18 Jesus is again telling us that men ought always to pray. Throughout the Word of God we are urged to pray continuously and earnestly.

Prayer is the power line for the Christian life. When we do not pray, our power line to the Lord is broken and the strength of our testimony is weakened. Let me challenge you to spend a great deal of time in prayer. The result will be a more joyous Christian life and more power with God. While you ladies are doing your household chores, or going about your other duties, while we men are on our jobs or even driving to and from our jobs, or while you teenagers and young people are in school or going about your daily activities, remember, we can always talk with the Lord and ask His guidance for our daily lives.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner" (Proverbs 13:6).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 34: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1603

SIR WALTER RALEIGH WAS BEHEADED.

1929

THE FINAL BREAKDOWN OF THE STOCK MARKET.

Dr. Jack Hyles related this anecdote concerning the Great Depression:

"I was thinking a while today how well do I remember the depression days and the crash of the stock market. My father owned a small grocery store in a little central Texas town called Italy, Texas. It was a small grocery store, to be sure, just an old-fashioned neighborhood store.

"(I miss the old neighborhood store, don't you? I miss the store around the corner. We used to say, 'Mommy, could I have a penny or a nickel to go get me a lollypop or an all-day sucker?'

"Daddy owned one of those little corner grocery stores, and when the depression came, it took everything he had. Dad lost every nickel that he had, and so we moved to Dallas, to the big city about forty miles away from our little town of Italy, a town of twelve or fourteen hundred people. Dad tried to find a job.

"Night after night he would come home; no job at all. In fact, that's the thing that turned my father to liquor and toward a life of sin, the depression of the late 1920s and the early 1930s. I can recall the church would hear about our plight, and the good people at the church would bring us some food. We'd make it a little while longer. I can recall Mother saying, 'Son, let's go to bed early tonight.' Many a day, at four o'clock in the afternoon really, we'd go off to bed because there was no food to eat and no fuel for the stove. We'd go to bed to keep warm and to sleep to keep from realizing that we were hungry.

"Then one Thanksgiving Day, I can recall, Mother put our Thanksgiving dinner on the table. It consisted of one potato—just one potato! I think she fried it, and just the two of us were there. My sister was a teenager, and she was old enough to go eat Thanksgiving lunch with some friends. Dad was looking for a job, and Mother and I divided a fried potato and

bowed our heads and thanked God for the food and then ate a half a potato a piece. Those were the depression days."

Perhaps you do not remember those days. How we ought to pause today to thank God for His goodness, for the breakfast we ate this morning, for the lunch we'll have at noontime, for the food we'll have in the dinner hour, for the clothes that we enjoy, and for the jobs that we have. Many can remember the days when we did not have what we have today. Let us thank God today for His provision for our lives.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1923

Runnin' Wild opened at Colonial Theater, Broadway. Miller and Lyles production introduced Charleston to New York and the world.

1924

Dixie to Broadway, "the first real revue by Negroes," opened at Broadhurst Theater, New York City, with Florence Mills in starring role.

1929

Collapse of stock market and the beginning of the Great Depression. By 1937, 26 per cent of black males were unemployed.

1947

President's Committee on Civil Rights condemned racial injustices in America in formal report, "To Secure These Rights."

Texas Southern University established.

Spingarn Medal awarded to Dr. Percy L. Julian for his achievements as a scientist.

1969

U.S. Supreme Court said school systems must end segregation "at once" and "operate now and hereafter only unitary schools." In Mississippi case, Alexander V. Holmes, the Court abandoned the principle of "all deliberate speed."

1981

Death of William O. Walker (85), publisher of the Cleveland Call Post, in Cleveland.