

“Temptations to Sin Are Sure to Come”

Sermon Notes

- **Our church’s mission - to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ - includes obedience to all that he has commanded**

**So, as a local church, let’s understand and own exactly what Jesus teaches about...*

1. ... _____ to other believers (vv.1-2; Matthew 18:6)

2. ... _____ the _____ of other believers (vv.3-4)

Next Week: Luke 17:5-6- “Faith Like a Grain of Mustard Seed”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of July 22nd – 28th

Getting Started

1. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:9 “blessed are the peacemakers.” So, clearly Christians are called to be committed to conflict resolution. Unfortunately, most of us are better either at *breaking* peace or *faking* peace rather than *making* peace. How about you? In what direction do you tend to err when it comes to peace making (aggression or passivity)? Why?

Digging Deeper

2. Have you ever had the experience of being corrected by a brother or sister in the context of your relationships in the local church? What was it like? Did they handle it well? Did you? For a proper attitude toward correction, see Psalm 141:5. What about David’s approach is so refreshingly unusual?

Open Your Bible to Luke 17:1-4...

3. In verse 1, Jesus speaks of “temptations to sin (lit. ‘stumbling blocks’)”. Are “stumbling blocks” always sin in and of themselves? For more clarification, see Romans 14:13-16. Can you think of any 21st century examples of what Paul’s referring to in this passage?

4. How do the twin truths of divine sovereignty and human responsibility show up in verse 1? Why is this an important tension for us to maintain in our reading of Scripture? In what other areas of our life and mission is a robust affirmation of both of these truths important?

5. Put the warning that Jesus gives in verse 2 into your own words. Why does Jesus use language like this? What is the intended effect?

6. Compare the words of Christ in verses 3 and 4 to what he says in Matthew 18:15-7. What does Luke include that Matthew doesn’t? What does Matthew include that Luke doesn’t? Why should we read these passages together?

7. What does it mean to rebuke someone (v.3)? In Luke’s Gospel demons, fevers, wind and waves, the disciples and even Jesus himself received rebuke (4:35, 39, 41; 8:24; 9:21, 42, 55;

18:15, 39). Taking these examples into account, what would rebuking your brother for sin look like? Given the broader teaching of Scripture on conflict resolution, is rebuke the only pathway we have when sinned against? See Proverbs 10:12b, 11:13b, 19:11 and 1 Peter 4:8 for more help on this topic.

8. What is forgiveness? According to verses 3 and 4, is forgiveness unconditional or conditional? Why does this matter?

9. Is God's forgiveness of us unconditional or conditional? How does 1 John 1:9 help us to answer this question? Beyond our repentance, what is the basis of God's forgiveness of us? What does Paul tell us in Ephesians 4:32-5:2?