

## *Faith and Forgiveness*

### *Luke 17:1-10*

When it comes to sin and failure, we should—no, we are required by God to focus our attention on managing \_\_\_\_\_ missteps and offer the grace of \_\_\_\_\_ to those who sin but repent. To do this requires a constantly maturing \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 17:1-4 draws a contrast between what we think about our own sins and what we should do when we see or know of other believers' sins and missteps that may impact us. First, Jesus warns us to take our own sins very \_\_\_\_\_. All sin is serious business to our Holy God, and we ought to watch our own lives closely to \_\_\_\_\_ sin and be \_\_\_\_\_ when we do. But regarding others, we are to do exactly what God has done when we sin. \_\_\_\_\_ the failure, and if the person repents, \_\_\_\_\_ them.

The most stunning thing about Jesus' teaching is not that we should focus our wrath on our own sinful behaviors and forgive others for their sins against us if they repent, but that we should \_\_\_\_\_ each time they hurt us but repent. No wonder the apostles' reaction to this teaching of Jesus was, "\_\_\_\_\_!" Jesus said they only need faith the size of a tiny mustard seed to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ the amazing power of God.

The parable of the demanding master serves as an illustration of what mustard-seed faith produces in our lives: \_\_\_\_\_ to what seems to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord. Jesus knows the requirements He places on His disciples are demanding. But genuine faith issues in humble obedience even to the \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness of a repeat offender.

Before you respond by saying, "This is too \_\_\_\_\_," and decide to explain away this teaching or \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from your Bible, remember that Jesus was not only instructing us in the ways of forgiveness. He was preparing \_\_\_\_\_ to do the same. After being severely treated, He prayed for the Father to forgive those sinning against Him. Maybe we too can have at least the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ it takes to forgive.