

We will begin the fifteenth lecture on the gospel of Luke. /Today we will begin with Luke chapter 17. /In verses 1-4, /Jesus spoke about the sin and forgiveness of those who cause others to sin. /Anyone who causes a believer of Jesus sin is a great sinner.

/To “cause people to sin” /means to make someone fall in their road of faith /through temptations of trials. /It also means to persecute believers to make them fall. /Anyone who causes a believer of Jesus to sin /will make God angry and he will receive a great punishment.

/Jesus said, “It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck.” /This is the greatest death penalty. /At that time, Judea and other surrounding nations executed the death penalty in this way. /Here it teaches us how much Jesus loves the believers.

/When our brother sins, /we must rebuke him with loving hearts and pray that he would repent. /When he asks for forgiveness, we must forgive him. /We must forgive him seven times. /This means that we must always forgive.

/In verses 5-10, /Jesus spoke about increasing one’s faith. /Whoever believes in Jesus wants to increase their faith. /The apostles asked that Jesus increase their faith.

/Jesus said, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, /‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.” /Faith as small as a mustard seed is faith that has life. /A mustard seed is small, but when it is planted, /it grows big enough /for birds to come and nest in it.

/In the same way, if we have faith like a mustard seed, /and if we have life, /we could tell a mulberry tree to uproot itself and plant itself in the sea, and it will do it. /Mulberry trees are difficult to uproot because its roots are very deep.

/We have sins that are rooted in us like the roots of mulberry trees. /Even if we do have bad habits, /we can be uprooted with God’s power /if we have living faith.

/Jesus said, “planted in the sea.” /The “sea” symbolizes the world. /Therefore, we must pull out the roots of our sins /and habits, and throw it at the world. /Jesus also said, would anyone say to his servant, “Come along now and sit down to eat”?

/Servants must complete their duties /and not expect to be treated like a master, /but always remain humble as they serve their master. /When believers carry out their works as servants, /they must not expect praises, /but glorify God alone.

/Servants must not call attention to themselves /after they complete their work, /they must not boast of themselves, /and they must not think that they did it on their way. /We will become arrogant if we believe that we did everything on our own.

/We must know that we do everything by God’s grace, /and we must remain humble as

we glorify God. /Then, our spirits will grow. /Our faith will increase. /In verse 8 it says, "Prepare my supper," /and this means to glorify the Lord.

/"Get yourself ready" /means to guard oneself. /"Wait on me while I eat and drink" /means to wait on Jesus so that He would receive all the glory. /Jesus said, "after that you may eat and drink." /When we are faithful and we glorify God, /we will have plenty of spiritual food to eat so that we may become noble.

/Servants do not get paid after they do all that their master tells them /because they are servants. /Jesus told us to be unworthy servants. /This means to deny ourselves. /We have only done our duties. /We must always have the attitudes of "unworthy servants." /This is the way to increase our faith.

/In verses 11-19, /the Lord healed ten men with leprosy. /Jesus went through Samaria /on His way from Galilee to Jerusalem. /He went into a village /and ten lepers came and asked Jesus to heal them.

/It says that they called from a distance. /People believed that lepers were bad luck. /Lepers were able to live in their homes or in neighborhoods. /They lived outside neighborhoods /or with other lepers.

/Then when lepers came near people, /the people shouted, "Bad luck, bad luck!" /Hence, no one else would approach lepers. /Thus, the lepers stood at a distance and asked Jesus to have pity on them.

/They called, "Jesus, Master." /They believed that Jesus, the Master from Israel, was Christ. /They probably heard news about Jesus /and knew about Jesus. /They heard about Jesus' works of salvation and believed. /They also believed that Jesus could heal them with God's power.

/Thus, they called out to Jesus. /"Have pity on us!" /We can only live when Jesus has pity on us. /The men desperately called out to Jesus. /Jesus hears those who call out desperately /and answers their prayers.

/Therefore, Jesus told them to /go show themselves to the priests. /Leviticus 14:2-3 /There were rules and regulations that those who were healed of leprosy /were to go show themselves to the priests /and give offerings.

/When Jesus told them to show themselves before the priests, /this meant that they were to show healing of their spirits. /The ten lepers believed that their spirits would be saved, and they went to the priests. /Then they were healed as they went.

/They were healed on their way in obedience to Jesus. /It is important that we believers obey Jesus and go forward. /It is important that we go when the Lord says, "Come."

/When we obey God's word, /the Red Sea will split open. /The Amalekites will

surrender. /The wall of Jericho will fall. /In this way, great things will happen /when we obey God's word. /All ten lepers were healed.

/However, only one man came back to Jesus /praising God. /He was a Samaritan who was the first to give glory to God. /He humbled bowed down before Jesus' feet. /He thanked Jesus.

/Many people were healed by Jesus /but not a lot of people thanked Him. /The other nine men probably did thank Jesus. /However, they first went home to their families. /They went home.

/They returned to their humanly /and selfish ways, /and to their families. /They did not glorify God /or thank Jesus. /They did not participate in spiritual salvation.

/Jesus was happy about the man who gave thanks, /but was upset at the other nine who did not give thanks. /When we compare our current situations /with our difficult pasts, /we can always give thanks to the Lord. /We must think about our pitiful pasts /and always thank God.

/In verse 19, /Jesus said, "your faith has made you well." /This faith was the faith of thanksgiving. /The man's faith showed through his actions. /He testified to his faith with his lips.

/“Your faith has made you well,” /means that the man's spirit was saved. /The man began to live out his salvation. /This man obeyed Jesus /and was healed of his leprosy on his way to the priests. /When he returned and gave thanks, /his spirit received salvation. /His spirit grew.

/In verses 20-25, /Jesus answers questions about the coming of the kingdom of God. /The kingdom of God /is a structure of believers who all center on Jesus Christ. /God's kingdom is a group of saved believers who center on Jesus Christ.

/The Pharisees asked when the kingdom of God would come. /The Pharisees believed that the Messiah would come /and defeat foreign powers, /and then construct the kingdom of Israel. /Thus, they asked this question.

/Then Jesus answered them. /First, the kingdom of God will not come with their careful observation. /The kingdom of God would not come when we can see, /but will come as a spiritual kingdom that is not seen with the eyes.

/Second, Jesus said the kingdom of God /was within them. /Jesus said, "the kingdom of God is within you," /and who does "you" refer to? /First, it refers to the Pharisees who asked the question. /The kingdom of God was inside the Pharisees.

/Christ enters and constructs the kingdom of God /in hearts that do not believe. /Second, "you" refers to /believers. /This means that God's kingdom is in believers.

/Third, /the kingdom of God is in the spirits of believers. /Romans 14:17 says, /“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, /but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

/In verse 22, Jesus said, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.” /The “days of the Son of Man” is the day of Jesus’ return. /Jesus said, “you will long to see one of the days.” /This refers to faith that is awake.

/This means that many people will not see the day of Jesus’ return. /This is because there will be much deceit in the Last Days. /There will be many sufferings in the Last Days. /It will be like the time of Noah. /It will be corrupt like the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. /Therefore, there will not be many with true faith.

/In verse 23, it says that people will say, “Here he is!” in the Last Days and deceive people. /Jesus said, “Do not go running off after them.” /This is because it will then be easy to be deceived.

/Today, there are many people who say that they are Jesus who has returned. /However, Jesus said that when He comes, /all people will know. /People saw Jesus ascend into heaven, /and so Jesus will return in sight of all people.

/Jesus ascended on a cloud, /and He will return on a cloud. /When Jesus returns, /there will be lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky /from one end to the other, /and everyone will know of the Lord’s return.

/However, in verse 25, Jesus said that He would first suffer many things. /The kingdom of God would be fulfilled through the cross, suffering, and resurrection of Christ. /There will be great tribulations before Christ’s return. /Thus, all Christians in the world will receive great sufferings. /Then Jesus will return after the tribulations. /The Millennial Kingdom would be constructed after Jesus’ return.

/In verses 26-37, /Jesus spoke about the Last Days and the Lord’s return. /He prophesied that the Last Days would be like the days of Noah. /In the days of Noah, /people would eat and drink. /People would focus on eating and drinking.

/They would marry and be given in marriage. /This is not an upright marriage. /They will be perverse and indecently take part in sexual activities. /Therefore, God sent a flood to destroy the people in Noah’s time. /Jesus also said that the Last Days would be like the time of Lot.

/People would buy and sell. /This means that they would leave God and chase after riches. /Money would become an idol. /“Planting” /means to invest in the world. /People will root themselves in the world.

/“Building” means to /abandon faith and focus on building homes. /Haggai chapter 1 says, /the house of the Lord was ruined /but people only cared /about building their own houses.

/Thus, the Lord rebuked them. /Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire. /Lot’s wife became a pillar of salt. /Lot and his two daughters barely received salvation. /This means that the world will be filled with complacency and hedonism in the Last Days.

/People will fall to their desires and secularism. /Then they will be destroyed through a judgment of fire. /Jesus gave warning about this.

/In verse 31, Jesus spoke about the man on the roof of his house. /At the time, the “roof” was used as a place of prayer. /Therefore, it means here that the man prayed.

/It says that he should not go down into the house, /which means that people who pray and communicate with God /should not let their hearts down into the world. /Their faith must not regress. /It says, “one in the field.” /The “field” here symbolizes the heart.

/We must remove rocks and weeds from the field of our hearts /and repent, /and then sow seeds of God’s word. /These people /must not look back. /To go back for anything means to go back to the world.

/Those who run forward in faith /must continue to do so, so that their faith will increase. /We must not go back to the world /and go back to flesh-centered lives. /Our faith must not decline.

/In verse 32, Jesus said to remember Lot’s wife. /Lot’s wife went against the words of the angel /while she escaped. /She turned around and became a pillar of salt. /If someone with faith /turns around to the world like Lot’s wife, /he will become a tasteless pillar of salt.

/Anyone who gives up God’s word for his physical life /will lose his spiritual life.
/Anyone who gives up his physical life for God’s word /will gain spiritual life.

/In verse 34, /it says that two people will be in bed, /and one will be taken and the other left. /“Night” symbolizes hardships. /The two men were in bed /because the hardships in the Last Days would be too great. /That is why they would be powerless and in bed.

/It says one would be taken /and the other left. /This is similar to the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew chapter 25. /The groom took the five virgins who prepared oil, /and left behind the other five who did not.

/In verse 35, Jesus said that two men would be grinding grain together. /This means that they were preparing food. /There will be places that provide food even during times of hardships.

/There will be places that share God's word /and provide spiritual food /even in times of hardships.

/In verse 37, /the "dead body" symbolizes sin. /The "vultures" symbolize judgment. /God's judgment will be in places where there is sin. /Therefore, we believers must prepare in advance and overcomes hardships with faith. /We must patiently wait for the Lord's return.

/Now, we will continue with chapter 18. /In verses 1-8, /Jesus spoke about prayer and answers. /Prayer is a special privilege that God gave believers. /Prayer is a source of communication with God. /Prayer is spiritual breathing. /When a believer stops praying, the works of life is cut off.

/Jesus said that we must not be disappointed when we pray. /When we seek according to God's will, /God will hear whatever we ask for. /However, when our prayers are not answered right away, /we easily become disappointed. /Disappointment results from unbelief.

/We must not be disappointed but continue to pray, /and then God will hear our prayers. /Jesus spoke in a parable. /The judge was not afraid of God, which means that he did not know God.

/The judge also did not care about men, which means that he was an unjust judge. /There was no one who helped the widow. /She did not have anyone to depend on. /Thus, she pleaded before the judge /to grant her justice against her adversary.

/The judge did not listen to the woman at first. /However, the woman continued to go plea before the judge. /This parable shows that /when believers pray before God, /they must not be disappointed but continue to pray.

/God is the Father to the fatherless, /and a defender of widows. /Psalm 68:5 /The widow's pleas were urgent, /and so the judge's heart became troubled. /He became distressed. /When we pray to God, we must call out with desperation.

/What are our enemies? /First is the devil. /Second is sin. /Third is ourselves. /Fourth are the powers that stand against God's righteousness. /We gain many enemies when we try to live by God's word.

/Therefore, we must call out to God to grant us justice, just as the widow did. /The judge was not afraid of God /and he did not care about men, /and so he ignored the widow for some time.

/However, when the widow continued to plea with him, /the judge became distressed /and granted the widow's plea. /Even the unjust judge granted the widow of her pleas. /Then, wouldn't God, who is the righteous judge, /listen to the cries of his beloved children? /When we, God's children, pray to God to grant us justice, /he will surely hear our

prayers.

/Jesus said, “will he find faith on the earth?” /Jesus asked if He would find people with faith to call to God /like the widow did /when He returns. /Just as the widow continuously called out and received justice, /we too must call out to God /and receive justice /and fulfill God’s will.

/In verses 9-14, /Jesus spoke about the prayers of the Pharisee and a tax collector. /Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector /to those who were confident of their own righteousness /and looked down on everybody else.

/The Pharisee here /stood up while he prayed. /He looked up and prayed towards heaven. /He said that he was not like the robbers, evildoers, and adulterers. /He also thanked God that he was not like a tax collector.

/The Pharisee said that he fasted twice a week /and gave a tenth of all he got. /Therefore, the Pharisee was a man who fulfilled his religious duties. /However, what were the Pharisee’s mistakes? /First, he put forward his righteousness.

/Second, he did not discover God. /Third, he did not see himself. /However, the tax collector /stood at a distance and prayed. /He could not look up to heaven, but kept his head down as he prayed. /He beat his breast and prayed.

/The tax collector prayed, “God, have mercy on me, /a sinner.” /The tax collector denied himself as he prayed. /The tax collector prayed from a distance, /which shows that he prayed with humility.

/This was proof that he discovered God. /The tax collector could not look up towards heaven /because he discovered his sins. /The tax collector had too many sins, and therefore, he could not look towards heaven.

/The tax collector beat his breast, /which means that he was regretful of his sins. /The tax collector asked God to have mercy on him /because he wanted to be forgiven of his sins by God’s mercy and compassion. /He said he was “a sinner,” /which means that he confessed his sins to God. /The tax collector repented.

/The tax collector went home justified before God, /while the Pharisee who considered himself righteous did not. /In this way, anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, /and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted. /Here, we must learn how to receive God’s grace.

/In verses 15-17, /Jesus said that heaven belonged to those who were like little children. /Jesus’ disciples rebuked children for coming before Jesus. /However, Jesus received the little children. /Then He said that the kingdom of God belonged to those like the little children.

/The disciples thought that the kingdom of God was going to physically come about. /However, Jesus said that the kingdom of God would be spiritually built. /When people become like little children, they possess heaven.

/When they do not become like little children, they will lose heaven. /There are certain characteristics that children have. /Children humble themselves. /Children rely on their parents. /They also want milk. /They learn and imitate others.

/Children obey. /Children are always with their parents and want to be with them. /In this way, when believers become like little children, /they will understand the Bible. /Thus, they will know the Bible through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/Believers will also possess heaven. /They will discover God more and more. /They will become like the image of Christ. /Their spirits will grow. /God will be with them.

/In verses 18-30, /Jesus answered a rich young man's questions about eternal life. /The rich ruler kept all the commandments since he was a little boy. /He lived a strict religious life, but he did not have the solution to his problem with eternal life. /Therefore, he came before Jesus to ask.

/Jesus told him to keep the commandments. /Jesus spoke about the ethical commandments, the fifth through ninth commandments. /This was because the young man thought that he could gain eternal life through good, ethical deeds.

/Jesus only mentioned the ethical commandments in the Ten Commandments /because He wanted to break down the young man's thoughts /and teach him the truth about life. /When the young man heard this, he said that he kept all the commandments since he was a boy. /He did keep the outwardly and ethical commands.

/If he had realized the fundamentals of what Jesus was saying, /he would have realized that he was a sinner. /Then he would have believed in Christ. /Jesus said that there were two ways to gain eternal life.

/First, Jesus told the man to sell all his possessions and give to the poor. /Second, Jesus said to follow Him. /The young man was rich /and his wealth was his idols, and he was sad and went away.

/Our spirits live when we follow Jesus. /However, anyone who does not throw away his idols /will go away in sadness.

/Jesus said that it is hard for the rich to enter heaven. /Even if someone is rich, /if he considers his possessions to be God's /and have a poor spirit, he can enter heaven. /However, those who are rich in heart /will never be able to enter the kingdom of God.

/In verses 31-34, /Jesus predicted His death for the third time. /Jesus spoke in more detail than the first two times. /Still, the disciples did not understand what Jesus meant.

/The disciples knew in their minds. /However, they did not know the reason why Jesus was going to die /and did not know the true meaning of it.

/In verses 35-43, /Jesus healed the blind. /There were many people there because it was the time of the Passover. /The blind man called out, "Jesus, Son of David." /He said this because he believed that Jesus was Christ.

/The blind man called out to Jesus because he believed that Jesus would give him sight. /He understood the truth and found Christ, /and he did not care if he bothered other people /who followed Jesus.

/The blind man did not only receive physical sight, /but he received spiritual salvation. /The man was thankful for the grace of redemption /and glorified God and followed Jesus. /Those who saw him also praised God.

/Here we will conclude the fifteenth lecture on Luke. /Thank you.