



You might want to take some time and allow people to share stories of where they have seen God at work in the aftermath of the storm last week.

"And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Luke 17:1-10 ESV

Jesus gives four hard sayings about a life of faith (they are to the disciples but are directed to us)

The first two are related to believer to believer relationships.

The last two are related to the believer and our relationship with God.

Hard Sayings

1. Death is better than causing others (an immature believer) to stumble (1-2) Why do you think Jesus is so adamant about this?
2. Rebuking and forgiving are both equal responsibilities of a believer (3-4) (There are 2 kinds of responders to sin - Quick rebukers and quick forgivers) increase our faith - **we can't do this on our own** - forgiveness has to be equal to the propensity of sin - limitless – Ask, Are you more a quick rebuker or a quick forgiver? Why do you think you are that way?
3. Growing in faith is our responsibility (5-6) - Jesus is telling them that they virtually have no faith. They are not actively participating in their own growth. Jesus is saying, “come on man! Examine and get in the game.” Jesus is telling them to count their blessings and use it as fuel to live faithfully. **“Fear fills our hearts when our hearts aren't filled with faith.”**
4. We work for God, not the other way around. (7-10) the landowner determines when the job is done and you will not be rewarded for just doing what is your job. God does not

work for us. What is your response to what God has done to serve you? Why do you think we get this equation of Him being the boss reversed so many times?

Hard Sayings application

- Search your life for stumbling blocks - What stumbling block do you need to remove?
- Rebuke and forgive - How do you plan on becoming more forgiving? rebuking?
- Participate in growing in your faith - look for and remember those times God has been faithful
- Work for God without boasting - He doesn't work for you.

How do you plan on sharing with others this week the faith that God has given you?

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.