

## Sermon Notes

### *Insights from Luke*

#66 – “A Sober Warning to Leaders and the Need for Increased Faith”

– Luke 17:1-6

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Manipulation and poor leadership

1. Pastor Don’s experience in 1984
2. Poor leadership
  - a. James admonition in James 3:1

##### B. Final months of Jesus’ ministry

1. Focus narrowed upon two groups
  - a. Disciples
  - b. Pharisees

##### C. The disciples will soon become the leaders.

1. Sin in the world is one thing, but causing others to sin is highly dangerous.

#### II. Exposition

##### A. Luke 17:1-2

1. “Inevitable” – appears only here in the New Testament.
  - a. Stumbling blocks are a certainty.
2. “Stumbling blocks” – the bait stick in a trap
  - a. MacArthur
  - b. Done through...
    1. Direct Temptation – I Thess. 4:6
    2. Indirect Temptation – Eph. 6:4
    3. Sinful Example – Rom. 14:13-15; I Cor. 8:9-15
    4. Failing to encourage righteousness – Heb. 10:24-25
3. “Little Ones”
  - a. Perhaps children or metaphorically to all followers
    1. Luke 10:21

4. “Millstone” – sober warning

##### B. Luke 17:3-4

1. Note sequence
  - a. Obligation to confront others on sin
2. The hope is always for repentance.
3. “If” clause – not a way out of demonstrating forgiveness
  - a. Jesus’ example – Luke 23:24
  - b. Steven’s example – Acts 7:60
4. “Return to you seven times,” verse 4
  - a. Peter – Matthew 18:21

##### C. Luke 17:5

1. Beyond the capabilities of the disciples
  - a. Insightful on the part of the disciples – “Increase faith”

##### D. Luke 17:6

1. Not the same context as Mark 11:22-23
2. Background on the mulberry tree
  - a. The point is we need God.
  - b. Main point: Not more or less faith, but rather true faith in the power of God
    1. Leon Morrice

#### III. Points for Reflection

- A. How might we lead people astray?
- B. Confronting sin is a normal function in the Christian walk.
- C. We must be a forgiving community.
- D. Thank you, God, for the gift of repentance and the forgiveness that comes through grace alone because of Christ alone and our belief in it through faith alone.