

B. **Humble Service: 17:7-10**

Luke uses the Master / Slave image, so prevalent in his day...
to illustrate on attitude to God and His Service.

- It was normal for the slave to come in from the fields, serve the Master, and eat himself later...
the Master **does not thank** the slave for doing his duty – that is what he is there for!
- So, when we have done our **duty** to God, we don't deserve thanks.
- Jesus reminds us here that God does not need **us**. **We need Him!**
God has millions to call to His service.
- It is our privilege to serve Him and we should be **humble** and **grateful** for the opportunity to
serve **the all-powerful and omnipotent God**.

C. **The Ten Lepers: 17:11-19**: **God's goodness and our ingratitude** illustrated by Jesus

- Jesus continues His fateful journey to Jerusalem and all that awaits Him there. He travelled along the **border** between Samaria and Galilee – this route makes for the Jordan Valley on the way to Jericho (18:35). Jesus begins **the final leg of his journey** to Jerusalem from there.
- Why did He take such a circuitous route?
 - a) Because He wanted to cover as much territory as possible.
 - b) God reads our hearts and the Good Shepherd seeks those souls who are lost **but ready to be found**, e.g. Zacchaeus (19:1-10).
- **There are 10 lepers** 10 = fullness of anything on earth ∴ all souls on earth
 - 9 Jewish lepers and 1 Samaritan (ie) 9 from Chosen people / 1 outsider
 - 9 from Church / 1 outsider
 - lepers **represent** sinners; Jesus wants to save **all** of them.
 - all humans are alike in sinfulness...

Jesus is the Universal Saviour:

- Jesus treated them all the **same** way and offered healing to all of them, disregarding social class or nationality (the foreigner)
- Jesus gave all of them the command to **"go and show yourselves to the priests"**. This was because no leper could return to his / her village unless examined and passed by the priests in Jerusalem and the correct sin-offering given in the Temple: Lk 5:12-16

- (NB) The command is the same for all time. He orders us, sinners, to present ourselves to the Priests in Confession, repent and do penance.
- (NB) All 10 were cleansed **as they obeyed the word of God through Jesus...**
they were cleansed **before** they reached the Priests.
- (NB) The Mercy of God is so great that He forgives the moment He finds us open to Him. Cf. **Prodigal Son**
confessed **after** the **Father accepted him**, clasped him in His arms, etc.

GIVING THANKS:

(NB)

Only one returned to Jesus to give thanks.
Jesus sadly asked where were the 90% of healed people who never said thanks?
They accept God's gifts **and carry on their old sinful lives!**

(NB)

- Luke uses the word **EUCHARISTEIN** for "giving thanks" = **EUCHARIST!**
He wants us to appreciate that **very few** relative to the numbers God loves, blesses and saves offer the Eucharist in thanksgiving!
- Even among Christians, very few offer the Eucharistein! How sad!!
- **Who** gave thanks? The despised one – treated as a heretic / foreigner by all – such are Roman Catholics today!

D.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD and the END TIMES: Lk 17:22-37

- **A hostile question** by the Pharisees began this discussion.
 - They asked when "His Kingdom" would come...
 - Since they do not accept His claim to be Messiah and Lord – they are enquiring about the **Davidic Kingdom** ...
- Jesus was the only claimant to the throne of David in His life-time.
- The leaders wanted a return to Monarchy... army... wars... conquering - and everything to do with Political Power.
- Jesus rejects all that **earthly** stuff in favour of the **SPIRITUAL KINGDOM of GOD**, which is open to all people of all times...
∴ 17:20 says that one cannot **observe it** – as one would observe a political entity.

17:21

Nevertheless, God's Rule was both **active** and **alive** among them in the souls coming to Jesus for salvation and new life...
→ the Pharisees observe this with their eyes but **refuse to acknowledge its reality** and therefore do not come into K.O.G. themselves.

THE KINGDOM IN THE FUTURE: 17:22-37

17:22

Jesus now addresses His Disciples – who **have** come into the Kingdom:

- a) He explains that from His own Ministry onwards, those who repent and come to Him for Salvation join the K.O.G. on earth.
- They leave the dominance of the world to come under **God's Rule** in their lives
 - (i): This Kingdom is **real** and could be seen in action in Jesus' healings, exorcisms and the conversion of the poor and needy. Cf. **Is 35**
 - (ii) Cf. Lk 11:20 ***"If it is through the finger of God that I cast out devils, then KNOW that the K.O.G. has overtaken you"***
 - (iii) Lk 12:32 ***"There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to GIVE you the Kingdom."***

(NB) The Kingdom is given to those who **truly convert** and give their lives to God...
but the Pharisees refused to come to Jesus for life – sadly!

b) The K.O.G. on earth will last **a long time**. People in the future would long to have experienced even **one day** of Jesus' Ministry on Earth!

c) There is no need to chase after false prophets "here" and "there"

Because Jesus's return in Glory will be obvious to all Humanity

- it will be clear, unambiguous **and universal**.

d) But **first** there has to be **JESUS' MARTYRDOM** in Jerusalem!

- Jesus must **pay** for His Right to Rule the earth **as Man** even though He is the Son of God.
Satan, the present "Prince of this World" will exact a huge price for his loss of power and his downfall.

17:25 Emphasises that "**this** generation" will reject and abuse Jesus terribly

→ we also live at a time – two millennia later – when events are coming to a crisis for K.O.G. on earth

- this can be seen in the fact that **our** generation has rejected Jesus and abused Him terribly in sacrilegious films, etc...

SIGNS of Jesus' Return: 17:26-37

(NB) **17:26** Jesus says "**look to the Word of God for your clues**"

The **first great Visitation of God** to the earth in Judgement was **THE FLOOD** in **Noah's** Day: (Gen ch. 6-8)

- At **that** time the majority of the people paid no attention to God or His Laws – they just enjoyed themselves as if there was no consequences to their actions and decisions.
- They did not listen to Noah, or his message from God to prepare for a great Flood
- They laughed at him building an Ark on dry land – for years!!
- They continued their worldly ways **right up to the day** the Flood broke-in on their revelry - remember Christmas 2004 in Banda Aceh (Indonesia)?
Everyone was enjoying themselves there too...!!
- that was the Day of the Lord for 250,000 people!

17:28-29 **Centuries later** the situation was **repeated in Lot's Day** (Gen 19)

- the people of Sodom lived immoral lives in opposition to God's Will right up to the Day Judgement visited them...

17:30 Jesus said that the condition of Humanity **would be the same** when **He returned in Glory!**
Society today is in this condition of:

- (i) Rebellion against God's Will
- (ii) Immorality rampant
- (iii) People living for **this** world only with no thought to eternal consequences.

17:31-35 Judgement came suddenly in Noah's Day... in Lot's Day, **and will come suddenly IN OUR DAY also!**

- Disaster is **not** the time for going back to your home to collect possessions...
"REMEMBER LOT's wife!" She turned back to Sodom.

17:34 • Jesus says "**on that night...** the great separation will take place: one taken / one left"
→ there will be no choice!

17:35 The Disciple asked: **where** will this happen?
Jesus answered: wherever people are! (ie) **World-wide disaster!!**
"Where the body is, there, too, will the vultures gather"

CHAPTER 18 of Luke

18:1-14 Jesus teaches on **Prayer and true commitment**
- **His teaching to Disciples**

- The warnings Jesus gave about the End Times would frighten the disciples – especially if they realised **how close** it was for them.
- They were living at the end of the **Mosaic Era**. Some terrifying events were coming in a few months!
- - there would be the terrifying Death of the Messiah...
 - a New Era would be launched for all Humanity...
 - 40 years later the death of the Temple **and** the City of Jerusalem would come as a result of an invasion from Rome...
- During the destruction of Israel when Titus and his army marched from the North down to Jerusalem leaving an orgy of Blood in their wake [Historian Josephus]
- Then **the Abomination of Desolation** took place when the pagan Roman army invaded the Temple and desecrated it, by worshipping one of their pagan gods where the Lord God **alone** had been worshipped...
- Then they accidentally burnt it to the ground...
- It was during this invasion in 17:31-37 that disciples were to run for their lives and not even to **look** back – as Lot's wife had done.
- (NB) • They were not to witness the Holy Judgement of the All-Holy God which was meted out to them through the agency of men.

18:1 This was the context in which Jesus told them of **“the need to pray continually and never lose heart”**.

- (NB)
- what Jesus asks for is **consistent and persevering prayer**...
 - without giving up!... because of discouragement

Jesus compares two opposite characters in many of his parables:

e.g. Lk 15	older / younger brother	{ older brother Dives Pharisee	} no love
Lk 16:19-31	Dives and Lazarus		
Lk 18:9-14	Pharisee and Publican		

The Judge : had **“no fear of God”** (ie) unbelieving and irreligious



Prov 1:7 says **“The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom”**

: had **“no respect for people”** (ie) without shame

(ie) no love for God or man - **∴ no justice**. He broke the great commandment to love God and neighbour: Deut 6:4-10; Lev 19:18

The Widow : is poor / helpless / no money or power...
she has nothing except her cries for justice...

Mosaic Covenant: Deut 10:18 : **“It is He (God) who sees justice done for the orphan and widow...”**

- The Covenant demanded the care of the orphan, widow and stranger...

18:3 **The Widow’s Plea**: **“she kept coming to him...”** She persevered so as to wear him down with her pleas... and she did!!

- (NB) **“For a long time he refused”** but she **persevered**. She did not give up. She did **not** take ‘no’ for an answer: she did **not** lose heart...

18:5 But her **persistence paid off** – simply because she was bothering him!

18:6-7 **Lesson**: God will always give justice to the poor / widow...
God will delay – for the period of Church history – before He will bring **FINAL JUSTICE** to the earth.

AFTER the persistent prayer of the Church... the poor widow left alone after Jesus’ death / resurrection

18:8 Jesus wonders if the Church **will** persevere in faith and love and in constant prayer until He comes...
“But when the Son of Man comes will he find any faith on earth?”