

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“Faith that Perseveres”

Luke 17

July 19, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Jesus asked, “Didn’t I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And Jesus said to the man, “Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.” (Luke 17:17–19, NLT)

Big Idea

Faith grows not by knowing more, but by obeying Jesus one step at a time.

Disciple-Making Focus

Faith grows through obedience and perseverance.

I. Disciple-Makers _____ by _____ Jesus Even When It’s Hard (vv. 1-10)

“Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.” (Luke 17:4, NIV)

“Increase our faith!” (Luke 17:5, NIV)

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed...” (Luke 17:6, CSB)

“When you have done all that you were commanded, you should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we’ve only done our duty.’” (Luke 17:10, CSB)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers don't measure faith by feelings.

They measure faith by obedience.

II. Disciple-Makers _____ by _____ Before They See Results (vv. 11-19)

He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. (Luke 17:14, NLT)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers obey Jesus before they understand what He is doing.

III. Disciple-Makers _____ by _____ Until the King Returns (vv. 20-37)

“The Kingdom of God is in your midst.” (Luke 17:21, CSB)

“Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.” (Luke 17:33, ESV)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers live every day in light of Christ's return.

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Small Group Questions — Week 20

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Week 20: Faith That Perseveres

Text: Luke 17

Start Here — Reflective Question

Can you think of a time when obeying God didn't make sense at first, but later you saw why He was leading you that way? What happened?

Read the Passage

Have someone read **Luke 17** aloud before discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. Growing Faith Through Obedience — Luke 17:1–10

Jesus teaches His disciples about forgiveness, faith, and faithful service.

- Why do you think the disciples responded to Jesus' command to forgive by saying, "Increase our faith"?
- Jesus says that faith as small as a mustard seed can accomplish great things. What do you think He meant?
- Why is forgiveness one of the greatest tests of genuine faith?
- The servant simply obeyed his master without expecting recognition. How does that challenge our attitude toward serving Christ?

2. Obedience Before the Miracle — Luke 17:11–19

Jesus tells ten lepers to go show themselves to the priests, and "as they were going" they were healed.

- Why do you think Jesus asked the lepers to obey before they experienced healing?
- Have you ever experienced God's faithfulness after taking a step of obedience?
- Only one leper returned to thank Jesus. What does his response reveal about genuine faith?
- Why is gratitude such an important part of the Christian life?

The sermon said: **"Faith often obeys before it sees."**

- What area of your life requires trusting God before you can see the outcome?

3. Living Ready for the King's Return — Luke 17:20–37

Jesus reminds His followers that although the Kingdom is already present, one day He will return.

- Why do you think people in Noah's and Lot's day failed to recognize God's warnings?
- Jesus tells His disciples to live ready rather than trying to predict His return. Why is that distinction important?
- What distractions today make it easy to lose an eternal perspective?
- If Jesus returned this week, what would you hope He would find you faithfully doing?

Disciple-Making Connection

The Disciple-Making Focus this week was:

"Faith grows through obedience and perseverance."

- What is one area where God is calling you to take a step of obedience this week?
- Is there someone you need to forgive, encourage, or begin a spiritual conversation with?
- How can simple acts of daily obedience open doors for disciple-making?
- How can this group pray for you as you seek to faithfully follow Jesus this week?

Close Together

Spend time praying together. Pray that God would:

- Increase your faith through daily obedience.
- Give you the grace to forgive those who have hurt you.
- Help you trust Him even when you cannot yet see the outcome.
- Keep your heart focused on Christ's Kingdom and His return.
- Give you opportunities this week to encourage someone spiritually and point them toward Jesus.

Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

"Father, show me one step of obedience You want me to take today. Help me trust You before I see the outcome, and help me faithfully follow You until You return."

Then intentionally take **one step of obedience** that you've been delaying—whether it's forgiving someone, beginning a spiritual conversation, serving someone in love, or following through on something God has already placed on your heart.