

**Theme:** Forgiveness, faith and obedience rest in the heart of the disciple. But when we have done everything that the Lord commands we have only done our duty. The blessing of God will come not through our works but through His Son.

**Background & Introduction:**

Jesus moves out of the public eye to speak privately, intimately with the disciples. He draws them to the heart of the disciple to look at forgiveness, faith and obedience.

**I. On Your Guard**

A. Watch Your Step

1. “Impossible” not to be tempted
  - We live in a fallen, broken world
2. Temptation – Don’t be its “source”
  - a. Little ones – are not children; they are weak disciples
  - b. Sources include
    - Doctrinal deception/distortion – False Teaching
    - Ungodly (sinful) behavior
3. “Woe”
  - Is much worse than a millstone
  - Better to die than to lead one into temptation
4. Pay attention to yourselves!

NOTE: Live in such a way that you don’t lead people into sin – but out of it!

B. Confront Sin

1. Rebuke the sinner
  - For their good
  - For Christ’s honor
2. Be on your guard James 5:19; Galatians.6:1

C. And Forgive!

1. 7 times a day?

NOTES: As much as Jesus is interested in correction, he is more interested in forgiveness, which knows no limits.

- 7 sins in a day? Who does that?
2. “70 times 7”?
    - Peter famous question (Matt.18:21) “...How often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as 7 times?”
    - 3 times was the order of the day (Rabbinical teaching from Amos)
  3. There is no limit.

NOTE: Forgiveness in the life of the believer and the church

1. Lack of forgiveness is a grievous sin in the life of the believer.
2. It is vital for the whole church Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 4:32

## II. Strong in Faith

### A. “Increase Our Faith!!”

1. A difficult challenge
  - To avoid misleading (or *leading*) others into sin
  - To forgive repeatedly
2. Beyond their power
  - Burdens you can't bear; duties you can't keep?

### B. Use What You Have

1. The *Presence* of Faith
  - Not “a lot”, but “alive”
  - Faith is *qualitative* – not quantitative!
2. The *Power* of Faith
  - a. A mustard seed of faith
    - Accomplishes great and eternal things
    - Is not a “genie in a bottle”
  - b. Uprooting trees?
    - Things with deep roots? Sorrows and Sins

## III. Humble In Service

### A. Doing Our Duty

1. Seeking reward?
  - The Danger? “God ‘owes’ me.”
2. In real life??
  - a. A Servant's life
    - Do all that is required
  - b. His reward?
    - Not punished for failing to do his duty.
3. Before God?
  - a. Imperfect service is the only thing offered
    - We can't even do what is required
  - b. Service must be with “no strings attached”
    - We serve because of who He is

### B. God-Honoring Service

- Offered in humility
- Offered out of love Luke 7:41,42

## IV. Blessed In Christ

### A. Jesus Is With Us – Not By Merit

- His Presence

### B. By Grace – Not Works Ephesians 2:4,5; John 3:16

- His Power