



*Forgive
Luke 17
Endings – Begin with the End in Mind*

- **PRAYER BOARD**
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Forgiveness: 2/10th, 2/17th (Gone), 2/24th, 3/3rd, 3/10th

1. *Forgiveness as Worship: The Six Challenges of Forgiveness in Luke 17 (add Communion notes to this: Communion = celebration of forgiveness, Communion is worship.)*

Forgiveness is not ‘a choice’ for Christians:

- #1.) LIVE a lifestyle that does not cause others to stumble (Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42)
- #2.) GUARD your heart.
- #3.) GUARD your heart so you can rebuke while taking no offense
- #4.) Living as a forgiven person comes with responsibilities.
- #5.) ASK for supernatural help
- #6.) **Forgiveness is an act of duty....forgiveness is an act of Worship**

2. *What Forgiveness Is/What Forgiveness is Not*
3. *The Role of Anger in Forgiveness: Is it legitimate?* THE BLESSING OF ANGER
4. *Forgiving Oneself (Understanding Your Salvation) – Begins with understanding GRACE*
 - I. **The Tension of Self Esteem** (Pride V.S. Self Love? Acceptance? Embrace? Respect.)
 - II. **What Give Us Value?**
 - III. **Resiliency**

Understanding you are on purpose Psalm 139:13-16 **I.Am.On Purpose.**

5. *Living IN Equity*
Filling our Jesus sized spaces with people instead of Him. Causes us to need them too much and stops healthy conflict. Leaving our Jesus sized spaces empty. Causes us to island ourselves off and begin the walk down the road of isolation.
6. *Good Grief [2/10]*
7. *Boundaries in Forgiveness [2/17]*
8. ***Necessary Endings: The Wise, The Foolish, The Evil [2/24]***
9. *Addressing Conflict: Peace Maker v.s. Peace Lover/Making Judgements [3/3]*
10. *The Art of Relinquishing Control [3/10]* Love yr Enemies notes from MNBS
- *Celebrating Communion as an ACT of FORGIVENESS [slaps us with forgiveness each time we enter into this ordinance].*

*Have you ever wondered if God really sees you?
Have you ever wondered if God really can love you?
Have you ever wondered if God could really forgive your horrible past?
Have you ever felt worthless even though you love Jesus?*

If we ever have, then we do not understand what happened when we met Jesus at Salvation.

Come, find out what Jesus’ love really does:

Soteriology – a.k.a. The Salvation Principle

Beginning March 17th, Pr. Orleen and the Wednesday Night Crew as we unpack the meaning of our SALVATION.

Soteriology is the branch of theology dealing with the study of salvation. The term comes from the Greek soterion, “salvation,” and is also related to soter, “savior.” **Soteriology** relates to several other branches of theology in that it asks who is saved, by whom, from what, and by what means.



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*“Good cannot begin until bad ends.”
Henry Cloud*

When We:

- Hang on too long when we should end something now.
- We do not know if an ending is actually necessary, or if “it” or “they” are fixable.
- We are afraid of the unknown.
- We fear confrontation.
- We are afraid of hurting someone.
- We are afraid of letting go and the sadness associated with an ending.
- We do not possess the skills to execute the ending.
- We do not even know the right words to use.
- We have had too many and too painful endings in our personal history, so we avoid another one.
- When they are forced upon us, we do not know how to process them, and we sink or flounder.
- We do not learn from them, so we repeat the same mistakes over and over.”

OR

- When we are stuck in a grief cycle and feel stymied by any action. O
- When we believe all it takes is just more commitment on our part. O

— Necessary Endings: The Employees, Businesses, and Relationships That All of Us Have to Give Up in Order to Move Forward by Henry Cloud

*“When we fail to end things well, we are destined to repeat
the mistakes that keeps us from moving on.”
Henry Cloud*

“Equip you to diagnose what kinds of people deserve your trust and those who don’t;
• Bring endings into the common language of your workplace so that pruning and continuous improvement become part of the culture;
• Normalize the idea of endings, so you can expect them instead of being surprised by them, and so you’re able to deal with them as a normal part of what you do;
• Help you to actually get comfortable with endings;
• Help you understand why you have not been able to negotiate previous endings successfully;
• Show you how to execute endings well;
• Create vision and energy for a better future as you become unstuck; and
• Help you to stop repeating the same issues over and over again.”

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Stepping into that GOOD:

1. Understanding God’s promises lead us to new places

Deuteronomy 1:6-8 O

⁶ “The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain. ⁷ Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. ⁸ See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.’

1:6–18 God’s promises and the need for leadership. God promised Abraham that His people would be living in the land and receive the blessing from the Lord (Gen. 15:13–21). This was now about to happen (vv. 6–8). But as Israel had increased in numbers, so had the need for a vital leadership (vv. 9–18).

1:6 **The LORD** our God is an emphatic reference to the divine revelation at Mount Sinai. Moses reminded Israel that God had revealed His glory, made His covenant with them, and **assured them of His presence**.

1:7, 8 **Turn ... and go** refers to the departure for the Promised Land. The extent of God’s gift was enormous, even as the people were numerous. Moses emphasized God’s faithfulness to His promises. The Promised Land extended from the Negev, **the South** (Gen. 12:9) to **the River Euphrates** (Gen. 15:18–21). **swore to your fathers**: God had promised this land to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob long ago (Gen. 15:18–21; 26:2–4; 35:10–12). The verb “to swear” (Heb. *shaba*’ in the Niphal formation) is similar in sound to the numeral “seven” (Heb. *sheba*’). The basic meaning of the verb may mean to bind oneself fully; that is, seven times. What a wonder that the sovereign Lord would “bind Himself” to meet the needs of His people (Heb. 6:13–18). Contrast another oath by Yahweh in 1:35.¹

2. Understanding God’s promises are for US

Romans 4:20-25 O

²⁰ No unbelief made him (MOSES) waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

3. Understanding these actions are Jesus’ nature in us

2 Peter 1

¹ Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

¹ Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson’s new illustrated Bible commentary* (p. 234). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.



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Confirm Your Calling and Election

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Step #1: ⁴ *by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises,*

Step #2: *so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with **virtue**, and virtue with **knowledge**, ⁶ and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with **steadfastness**, and steadfastness with **godliness**, ⁷ and godliness with **brotherly affection**, and brotherly affection with **love**. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What if.....

April 1: Moving On

Deuteronomy 1:1–46; 2 Corinthians 1:1–11; Psalm 31:1–9

“You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Turn now and move on” (Deut 1:6–7).

We have a terrible tendency to stay in one place or keep doing one activity longer than we should. Our meetings run long, we constantly work overtime, or we overstay a welcome. And then there’s the most significant problem of all: we ignore God’s command to leave a place, position, or role.

Change can be refreshing. But the countless decisions and the difficult and frustrating moments that accompany change can often keep us from moving forward. **We become comfortable where we are, and we fear the unknown.**

Indeed, the majority of people (including Christians) live seemingly meaningless lives. Most American Christians spend more hours per day doing comfortable things, like watching TV, than they do praying, reading their Bibles, or serving others (usually combined). Yet what do the elderly always tell us? “I wish I had taken more risks; if only I wasn’t so afraid.” We’re all on our way to dying. But as Christians, we’re also on our way to eternal life. Why should we limit God’s work with our fear?

In Deuteronomy 1, God called Moses to leave the mountain—a place where he’d grown comfortable. Moses’ new path would be far from easy. He was going to enter the land of the Amorites and Canaanites, who were feared warriors (Deut 1:7). He was about to risk the lives of everyone with him—men, women, and children—in the process of following God’s will. Both young and old would once again be in danger.

But God didn’t intend for Moses to remain in the wilderness; He called Moses to lead His people into the same holy land He had promised to Abraham many years before (Deut 1:8). And despite his fear, that’s what Moses did: “Then we turned and set out toward the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea, as Yahweh told me, and we went around Mount Seir for many days” (Deut 2:1).

Moses’ confidence was based on one thing: what God had spoken. May your confidence be grounded in the same thing, and may you trust God at His word.

What is God calling you to do now? What comforts is He calling you to leave behind? What have you been ignoring?

JOHN D. BARRY²

² Barry, J. D., & Kruijswijk, R. (2012). *Connect the Testaments: A One-Year Daily Devotional with Bible Reading Plan*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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4. Understanding these promises enacted “take off” the OLD and “put on” the NEW

Ephesians 4:21-14 O

²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,²² **to put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,²⁴ **and to put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Would this verse then apply to us not letting go of the bad?

James 4:17 O

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Letting go of the “is nots” (Cloud calls this pruning)

Endings Check List:

Dealing with the “is nots”:

- Is not the best for me (just taking my time, sorta good). (e.g. The “FUN” friend who takes my time but has no interest in investing in me or in growth)
- Is not healthy for me (unhealthy to sinful behavior producing, tempter, think AA)
- Is not investing (siphoning off). (e.g. distracting)
- Is not reciprocal/mutual (feed me! Seymore. Uses me).
- Is not growing as a person or as a Christian.
- Is not investing in my love for Christ.
- Is not kind.
- Is not loving of others.

Malcom Gladwell’s “*Talking to Strangers*” – We naturally defer to “it cannot be that bad” or “there has to be good in here” a.k.a. Trusting Another.

Can I:

1. Make a decision about the value of relationships in my life?
2. Make decisions about the value of activities in my life?
3. Make decisions about the value of practices in my life?
4. Tell the difference between Hurt and Harm?
5. Know the difference between Positive and Negative in my life?
6. Live with discomfort? Conflict? Rejection?
7. Dream of a life that would be ‘called by Jesus’ life?
8. Decipher what is unhealthy in my life?
9. Tell what is in my life that is stopping my life from growing?



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10. Pick out what is in my life that is just busy work or wasted time (TV)?
11. Tell when I am just being “too nice” in a relationship?
12. Tell when I am taking responsibility for another’s bad?
13. Bring about the results I want by just “more effort” on my part?
14. Identify whether I feel disloyal for holding another person responsible for being mature?
15. Identify whether I have a high pain tolerance (accept lousy treatment)?
16. Tell the difference between true failure and my accepting responsibility for failure that is not mine to take?
17. Tell if I shut down when I am dealing with things beyond my control?
18. Can I tell if I am co-dependent? *(my identity will be changed w/o this relationship. I can change another. They need me...feeling too responsible for another’s behavior.)*
19. Change *another*?

20. *Is there a relationship between not wanting to end bad practices in my life and not wanting to end bad relationships?*

What type of relationships do I want in my life?
Am I happy with the ones I have? Why or why not?
Am I lonely?
Do I feel heard by the people closest to me?

Will I own the responsibility to engage the change needed in my life?

~~A/DA To start something new, something else may need to end.~~

I get to pick:

- Pain with a Purpose
- Pain for No Good Reason

What IS my desire?

Proverbs 13:12 *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.*

By nature we:

- Deal with people the way we like to be dealt with.
- Expect others to be motivated the same way we are.
- Feel guilty making judgements on the ‘value’ of us stopping our investing into another.



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THE WISE

Psalm 107:43

Whoever is **wise**, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Proverbs 3:35

The **wise** will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

Proverbs 9:8

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a **wise** man, and he will love you.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a **wise** man listens to advice.

Proverbs 12:18

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the **wise** brings healing.

Proverbs 14:16

One who is **wise** is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

Matthew 7:24

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a **wise** man who built his house on the rock.

James 3:13

Who is **wise** and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

James 3:17-18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

SCENARIO:

The Game Dinner is preparing for their next year’s event.

They have a kitchen volunteer from last year that they never were honest with about their lack of kitchen hygiene and preparatory practices. They were hoping they could get them to volunteer on a different team than the kitchen. The volunteer is insistent on being in their “muse”...THE KITCHEN.

- Learn from experience.
- Make adjustments from that experience.
- They self monitor.
- They see feedback as a gift.
- They are not defensive.
- They say, “Thank you”, when someone gives them difficult feedback.
- They own their behavior – does not blame another for it or excuse it away.
- The relationship is strengthened as a result of the feedback.



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- They empathize with those who their behavior has affected.
- When their behavior hurts another, they show true remorse.
- They want to know how they can do better in the future.
- They do not allow problems that have been brought up turn into a pattern.

[Does not mean: Smartest. Talented. Gifted. Charismatic. Charming.]

How to deal with:

Tell them the problem.

Give them feedback.

Share resources.

Talk! Talk! Talk! Talk until there is nothing left to discuss.

People who do not change from conflict believe they are not at fault.

THE FOOLISH

Psalm 36:3

The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act **wisely** and do good.

Psalm 94:8

Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be **wise**?

Proverbs 10:14

The **wise** lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the **wise** becomes **wise**, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

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- Always have an excuse for their behavior.
- Put off change.
- Put off learning.
- Have difficulty apologizing for how their behavior has affected another.
- Rejects feedback.
- Does things to not get any feedback.
- Tries to rewrite the truth so they do not have to adjust to it.
- When given feedback, they immediately come back at you with a reason WHY it is not their fault.



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- Blame others.
- Attempting to talk about the problem just creates more confusion, alienation, or a breach in the relationship.
- They will try and blame the messenger (you) “You never told me...”.
- You find yourself having to prove you have a right to question them.
- “It is not THAT bad!”
- Triumphant in rationalization: You must understand why...this excuses fault in this situation.
- They do not take ownership of the issue.
- There is no remorse.
- They get angry at you for bringing it up.
- They are hurt you could actually think that about them.
- They point out your flaws (Well, you....).
- “They have little or no awareness or concern for the pain or frustration that they are causing others or the mission.”
- Oblivious to how their behavior affects others.
- See others as the problem.
- Anger.
- Disdain.
- Lack of ownership of the issue and a refusal to take responsibility and change behavior to meet the demands of life.

How to deal with: Limits With Consequences.

- *Stop talking.*
- *Stop suggesting. Those suggestions do not motivate.*
- *Set limits: They stop the damage of their refusal to change.*
- *Give consequences that will cause them to feel the pain of their choice not to listen.*
- *How can we give feedback w/o trying to solve their problem?*
- *We release ourself from their problem.*
- *We offer them an option:*
You choose. This is what I need, you do not have to choose that but I will not accept anything less. I release you from doing what I need, you must want to.
- *Look for ANY forward momentum.*
- *Look for WHO is suffering the consequences.*

WHENEVER SOMEONE IS NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY
THERE ARE ALWAYS CONSEQUENCES.



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Crazy:

Continuing to do the same thing while expecting different results.

THE EVIL

Psalm 5:4

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; **evil** may not dwell with you.

Psalm 7:14

Behold, the wicked man conceives **evil** and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies.

Psalm 34:16

The face of the Lord is against those who do **evil**, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

Matthew 12:35

The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the **evil** person out of his **evil** treasure brings forth **evil**.

Romans 1:28-32

*²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, **evil**, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

List the words on the slide and have L/G define.

1. With wise people, talk to them, give them resources, and you will get a return.
2. With foolish people, stop talking to them about problems; they are not listening. And stop supplying resources; they squander them. Instead, give them limits and consequences.
3. With evil people, you have to **go into protection mode**, not helping mode, when dealing with evil people. (Lawyers, protection methods, money)

— Necessary Endings: The Employees, Businesses, and Relationships That All of Us Have to Give Up in Order to Move Forward by Henry Cloud

How to deal with:

- *Admit it is a reality. There are evil people.*
- *They are sometimes wrapped up in nice trappings.*
- *Realize there are people who want to bring you down and destroy whatever you are or whatever you have built.*
- *They envy: Your position. Your relationships.*



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- *Their goal is to get back at you.*
- *Stay away from them: NO CONTACT.*

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no **evil**, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Wrap Up “To Do’s”:

1. *I must see reality to end things. Do I?*
2. *How to find “reality” in my life:*
3. *Mistaking wish as hope. Wish is based on desire.
Hope is based on reality (will time really help the relationship grow?).*
4. *What reason(s) are there to base my decision to keep trying?*
5. *What changes are there to base this hope?*
6. *Does this person deserve my trust? Who are they? Who can help me see who they really are?*
7. *Who can analyze their behavior objectively?*
8. *Verifiable Involvement in a proven change process.*
9. *Additional structure (support/accountability) added into their life.*
10. *Monitoring systems.*
11. *Is there any Forward Momentum?*
12. *They seek new experiences and skills.*
13. *They are self-motivated to grow.*
14. *They admit their needs.*
15. *They admit their faults.*
16. *They own their problems.*
17. *They embrace support.*
18. *They are not afraid of outside help (counselor)*



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(use???) HELPS:

1. *Accept the seasons and cycles of life.*
2. *Accept that life produces too much life.*
3. *Accept that incurable illness and sickness and evil exist.*

PROMISES OF GOD: *THE SEED OF HOPE*

The Bible is filled with the precious promises of God to His children. As many as 30,000 different promises are recorded in Scripture. These promises of God are simple and sure. Because of who God is, His Word can be trusted.

A promise is the pledge to another to fulfill a specified act. Scripture records promises by God to His children (John 14:13), by God to Jesus (John 13:3–5), by one individual to another (Neh. 5:12), and by a believer to God (Eccl. 5:4–10). Christians are invited to claim God's promises related to forgiveness, heaven, the Holy Spirit, answered prayer, guidance, comfort, and protection.

While the promises of God are afforded to all believers, they do carry a few stipulations. God's children must humble themselves, pray, seek God's will, and turn from evil in order to receive God's promises (2 Chr. 7:14). The fulfillment of God's promises is directly related to the obedient responses of God's children. There is great hope in the promises of God!

See also Lam. 3:22, note; 2 Cor. 1:20; Gal. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9; notes on Attributes of God (Ex. 33; Deut. 4; 32; 2 Chr. 19; Job 23; 42; Ps. 25; 90; 102; 119; Is. 6; 65; Jer. 23; Rom. 2; Eph. 1; 1 John 5); Blessings (Gen. 12); Gratitude (Ps. 95); Providence (Eccl. 7)³

³ Thomas Nelson, I. (1995). *The Woman's Study Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



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SCENARIO: WISE

The Game Dinner is preparing for their next year's event.

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Game Dinner Volunteer:

You know how talented I am in that kitchen?
How come I have not been told "no" before?
Everyone likes my cooking?

Game Dinner Team Member:

I am sorry that this was not communicated after last year's event.
I truly apologize on behalf of the team.

Game Dinner Volunteer:

Thank you for that apology. Means a lot.
I still do not understand the insistence that I cannot help in the kitchen:

Game Dinner Team Member:

Well.....last year it was noted that you had a very hard time following the kitchen procedures for hygiene. Like not tasting the food from the pot. Not eating over the food. AND...wearing that hair net!

WHAT WILL OUR VOLUNTEER DO IF THEY ARE WISE?

Game Dinner Volunteer:

(Pause and think about what you just heard)
Yep. You are right. I cook in the church kitchen like I am cooking at home.
I just pretend I do not hear anyone's suggestions.
What would you like me to do now?

WHAT WILL OUR TEAM MEMBER DO IF THEY ARE WISE?