



## The Words of Jesus Series

# Lightning

Forgiveness, Discipline, Gratitude, Woe and End Times

**Context: Luke 17, Matthew 18 & 23, Mark 13**

**Lesson 1 – Forgiveness & Discipline (Luke 17:1-10, Matthew 18:15-35)**

**Lesson 2 – Gratitude/Ingratitude (Luke 17:11-21, Matthew 23:1-36)**

**Lesson 3 – Things to Come (Luke 17:22-37, Mark 13:1-37)**

Jesus teaches on forgiveness, church discipline, being grateful, woe to those not living according to God, and end time prophecy.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



**CSI RAPTURE** Luke 17:31-35  
Vic appears to have disappeared into thin air. No trace of foul play. UFO ABDUCTION?

### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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**Lesson 1 – Forgiveness & Discipline (Luke 17:1-10, Matthew 18:15-35)**

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 17:1-2 What would be better than causing a little one to stumble? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Luke 17:3-4 If your Christian brother sins, what are we to do? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] Luke 17:5-6 How much faith is required to perform miracles? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Luke 17:7-10 How much pride can we take in having done the right thing? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Matthew 18:15 If our brother sins where are we to show him his sin? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] Matthew 18:16 If he does not listen, what then? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Matthew 18:17 If he does not listen, what then? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] Matthew 18:17-18 If he does not listen, what then? \_\_\_\_\_

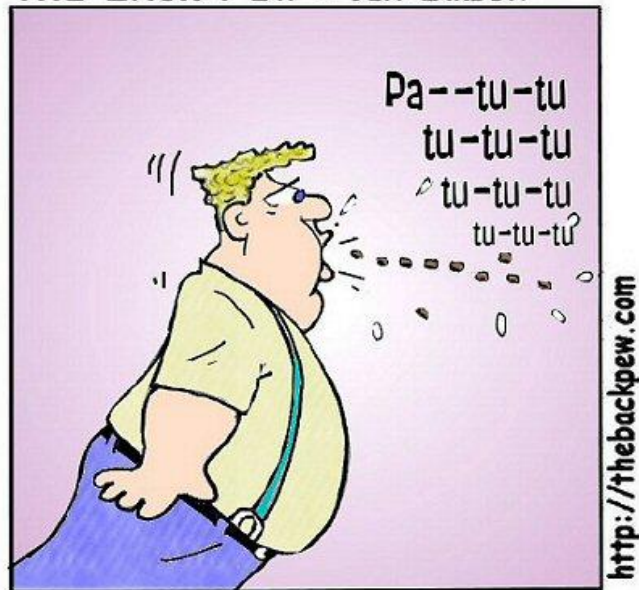
[1I] Matthew 18:19-20 How many are required for the Lord to join a meeting of believers? \_\_\_\_\_

[1J] Matthew 18:21-22 How many times are we to forgive a fellow believer? \_\_\_\_\_

[1K] Matthew 18:23-35 What does this parable mean? (Hint: Matthew 6:14-15)

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**



Mustard Seed Faith is good.. Well Tim's faith is more like spewing Watermelon seeds. Tim can't move mountains, but he can scatter a crowd with a good spray.  
**Luke 17:5-6**

**Lesson 1 – Forgiveness & Discipline (Luke 17:1-10, Matthew 18:15-35)**

[1A] Luke 17:1-2 What would be better than causing a little one to stumble?

Drowning (More on "woe to them" in the next lesson.)

[1B] Luke 17:3-4 If your Christian brother sins, what are we to do? Rebuke him

[1C] Luke 17:5-6 How much faith is required to perform miracles? Faith like a mustard seed

[1D] Luke 17:7-10 How much pride can we take in having done the right thing? None

[1E] Matthew 18:15 If our brother sins where are we to show him his sin? In private

[1F] Matthew 18:16 If he does not listen, what then? Take a witness or two and try again

[1G] Matthew 18:17 If he does not listen, what then? Bring it up with the whole church

[1H] Matthew 18:17-18 If he does not listen, what then? Treat him like an unbeliever

[1I] Matthew 18:19-20 How many are required for the Lord to join a meeting of believers? Two

[1J] Matthew 18:21-22 How many times are we to forgive a fellow believer?

No limit 7 X 70 = 490, but who's counting?

[1K] Forgiveness is not optional for a Christian.

Matthew 7:2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."

Mark 11:25-26 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

Colossians 3:13 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

**For Further Thought:**

(1i) Do you think Matthew 18:17-18 justifies shunning? Why or why not? Do we shun unbelievers or reach out to them in love?

(1j) Thinking about Matthew 18:15: Why privately?

(1k) Thinking about Luke 17:5-6: When was the last time you saw any mulberry trees flying about? Why not? Is there so little faith among us?

(1l) Thinking about Matthew 18:19: Why aren't we all very wealthy and completely healthy?

(1m) What is the difference between forgiveness and forgetting?

(1n) What is the difference between repentance and remorse?

(1o) What is the difference between forgiveness and restoration of trust?

**Lesson 2 – Gratitude/Ingratitude (Luke 17:11-21, Matthew 23:1-36)**

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Luke 17:11-14 How many leprous men were there? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] Luke 17:15-19 How many returned to thank Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] Luke 17:20 Who questioned Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] Luke 17:21 Where is the Kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] Matthew 23:1-12 What chair gave the scribes and Pharisees their authority? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] Matthew 23:13-14 What did they not allow? \_\_\_\_\_

[2G] Matthew 23:15 What were they the sons of? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] Matthew 23:16-22 Why is the temple more significant than the gold decorations on the temple?  
\_\_\_\_\_

[2I] Matthew 23:23-24 What provisions of the law were they neglecting? \_\_\_\_\_

[2J] Matthew 23:25-26 What were they full of inside? \_\_\_\_\_

[2K] Matthew 23:27-28 What were they full of inside? \_\_\_\_\_

[2L] Matthew 23:29-32 Who were they sons of? \_\_\_\_\_

[2M] Matthew 23:34-36 Where was Zechariah, son of Berechiah murdered? \_\_\_\_\_

[2N] In Matthew 23:34 who are the "prophets, wise men and scribes" mentioned by Jesus? So what?  
*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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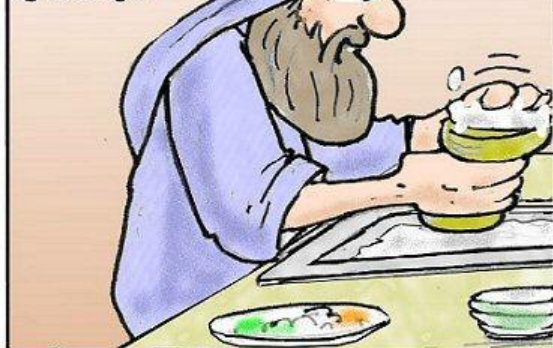
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**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**

I hate washing the inside  
it gets all  
yucky-  
gucky!



<http://thebackpew.com>

Realizing his heart was not into being a dishwasher, Phil turned to a career at the Temple where the standards were not so high. **Luke 11:39 mt 23:26**

**Lesson 2 – Gratitude/Ingratitude (Luke 17:11-21, Matthew 23:1-36)**

- [2A] Luke 17:11-14 How many leprous men were there? Ten
- [2B] Luke 17:15-19 How many returned to thank Jesus? One
- [2C] Luke 17:20 Who questioned Jesus? Pharisees
- [2D] Luke 17:21 Where is the Kingdom of God? In our midst
- [2E] Matthew 23:1-12 What chair gave the scribes and Pharisees their authority? Chair of Moses
- [2F] Matthew 23:13-14 What did they not allow? People to enter the Kingdom of God
- [2G] Matthew 23:15 What were they the sons of? Hell
- [2H] Matthew 23:16-22 Why is the temple more significant than the gold decorations on the temple?  
The temple sanctifies the gold
- [2I] Matthew 23:23-24 What provisions of the law were they neglecting? Justice, mercy and faithfulness
- [2J] Matthew 23:25-26 What were they full of inside? Robbery and self-indulgence
- [2K] Matthew 23:27-28 What were they full of inside? Hypocrisy and lawlessness
- [2L] Matthew 23:29-32 Who were they sons of? Those who murdered the prophets
- [2M] Matthew 23:34-36 Where was Zechariah, son of Berechiah murdered? Between the temple and the altar
- [2N] The Bible is not explicit but it seems clear to me He is talking about the apostles and early believers. "Sending" in Greek is *apostello*. Apostle means "sent one." Certainly they were murdered, beaten and persecuting from city to city, just as Jesus said. If you are widely admired and liked by the secular world, you may want to examine closely you manner of living. It might be lacking in evangelism.

**For Further Thought:**

- (2h) Thinking of Matthew 23:25-28: How different is your inner thought life from your outward words in actions?
- (2i) How grateful are you? How many "thank you" notes do you write? Are you grateful the service people who wait on you in the community? When was the last time you thanked your parents? Your church leaders? Your children? Your spouse? Your teachers, past and present? The person who led you to Jesus Christ?
- (2j) Thinking about Matthew 23:1-12: Since they were such scalawags, why did Jesus say they should be obeyed? (Hint: Romans 13:1-7)
- (2k) Thinking about Matthew 23:23-24: How can we help prevent ourselves from getting lost in the details and failing to keep the "big picture" in mind?
- (2l) Thinking about Matthew 23:16-22: What criteria do you use to determine the order of priority or significance among a group of related things?
- (2m) What does Luke 17:21 mean by "the kingdom of God is in your midst"?



**Lesson 3 – Things to Come (Luke 17:22-37, Mark 13:1-37)**

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Luke 17:22-24 How obvious will the Son be like in His day? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] Luke 17:25 How much must the Son suffer? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] Luke 17:26-30 What will people be doing when He appears? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Luke 17:31-37 What will happen to those who lose their lives? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Mark 13:1-2 What will happen to those wonderful buildings? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] Mark 13:3-8 What is war and catastrophe in various places? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] Mark 13:9-13 Who will speak for us when we are persecuted? \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] Mark 13:14-23 Why is He going to cut short the days of tribulation? \_\_\_\_\_

[3I] Mark 13:24-27 How will they see the Son of man coming? \_\_\_\_\_

[3J] Mark 13:28-32 What will be certain to survive forever? \_\_\_\_\_

[3K] Mark 13:33-37 When will the end come? \_\_\_\_\_

[3L] Why did Jesus tell His disciples about the end times?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON**



Two were figure skating, one is taken, while the other is not caught in the midst of a difficult throw and catch routine. **Luke 17:31-35**

**Lesson 3 – Things to Come (Luke 17:22-37, Mark 13:1-37)**

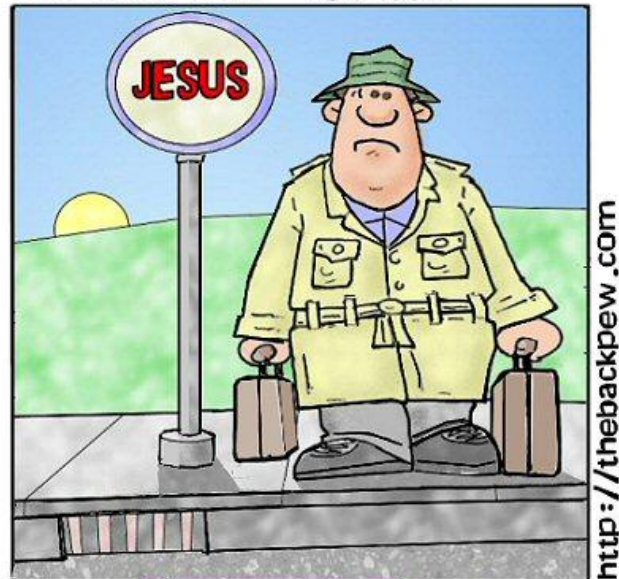
- [3A] Luke 17:22-24 How obvious will the Son be like in His day? Lightning  
[3B] Luke 17:25 How much must the Son suffer? Many things  
[3C] Luke 17:26-30 What will people be doing when He appears? Normal daily routine  
[3D] Luke 17:31-37 What will happen to those who lose their lives? Their lives will be preserved  
[3E] Mark 13:1-2 What will happen to those wonderful buildings? They will be destroyed  
[3F] Mark 13:3-8 What is war and catastrophe in various places? The beginning of birth pangs  
[3G] Mark 13:9-13 Who will speak for us when we are persecuted? The Holy Spirit  
[3H] Mark 13:14-23 Why is He going to cut short the days of tribulation? To save the lives of the elect  
[3I] Mark 13:24-27 How will they see the Son of man coming? In clouds with great power & glory  
[3J] Mark 13:28-32 What will be certain to survive forever? His words  
[3K] Mark 13:33-37 When will the end come? He didn't say  
  
[3L] Mark 13:37. Not just His disciples – "What I say to you, I say to all, 'Be on the alert!' "

The message is simple. In the midst of catastrophe we are to expect miraculous rescue. We are to hope for the best, but since we don't know when the rescue will arrive, we are to prepare for the worst.

**For Further Thought:**

- (3m) What do you think of "survivalists?"  
Why?
- (3n) What if the end times were now? Does your family have a contingency plan for catastrophe? Does your church?
- (3o) Are you spiritually ready for the return of Jesus Christ? How do you know?
- (3p) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?
- (3q) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?
- (3r) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?

**THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson**



**Whatever you do in life.. DON'T MISS THE BUS!!** No one knows the day or time.. so be careful, be ready.. because Jesus is coming back. **Mark 13:32-33**