

1) Offence will come - Stumbling Blocks / Hurts / Emotional wounds

Luke 17:1-6

- Pain caused by the pandemic, People, Church
- Results in Hurts, deep emotional wounds, stumbling blocks
- Leads on to Bitterness & unforgiveness, resentment

2) Increase our Faith

- Keep in mind that Jesus was speaking of getting rid of bitterness and unforgiveness.
- Apostles may have said: *“Hey! Do you know how hurt I am? Do you understand the pain I’m going through, the rejection, I’ve left my family for you, I’m despised by religious leaders – and you’re asking me to forgive?”*
- **“If you want me to forgive 70 times a day – you better increase my faith!”**
- Many of us may say the same thing: *“I’ve lost my best friend to covid, I’ve lost my job, I feel hurt from individuals, my job and possibly even the Church, nights of crying.”*
“I carry the pain of past abuse, the pain of rejection, the constant criticism and gossiping regarding my situation – and you’re asking me to forgive?”
- Forgiving once is already a challenge for most people.
But to forgive someone seven times in one day almost sounds impossible to many people.

3) Sycamine Tree

Luke 17:6

- Jesus likened these forces to the sycamine tree that was so well known throughout the Middle East.
- The sycamine tree produced a fig that was very bitter to eat
 - The sycamine tree was pollinated by wasps
 - The sycamine tree had a very large and deep root structure
 - The sycamine tree’s wood was the preferred wood for building caskets.

“Bitterness may forecast patterns of biological dysregulation (physiological impairment, can affect metabolism, immune response or organ function) and leads to physical disease.”

Prof Wrosch @ Montreal University – Daily Mail 2011

4) The solution: Forgiveness - it’s a command

Lk 17:3

- Forgive anyone who offends you... The Lord forgave you, so you must forgive **Col 3:13-14**
- Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, even as God in Christ forgave you **Eph 4:32**

**When you forgive
it does not make what they did to you right
It makes you right**