

# Living for Kingdom Impact

## Part 1

**Today's Question:** What mountain needs to move in your life?

**Passage Background:** In Luke 17, Dr. Luke is presenting some discipleship essentials that will prepare the disciples for Jesus' coming crucifixion, death, resurrection, and ascension. In this chapter, we find five essential traits that Jesus wants His disciples to develop to be ready for His departure: 1) Forgiveness 2) Faith 3) Faithfulness 4) Thankfulness 5) Readiness

**Luke 17:1-16 (NKJV):**

17 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. <sup>3</sup> Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

<sup>5</sup> And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

<sup>6</sup> So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

**Living for Kingdom Impact-4 Ways to Make an Eternal Difference:**

1. Always seek to \_\_\_\_\_ others \_\_\_\_\_ in their \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_ them down (v. 1-2).
  - The word **offenses** here in the Greek word *skandalon*. *Skandalon* originally referred to the bait-stick in a trap.

**Scripture Insight: Offenses:** The term means "stumbling blocks," lit., the trigger of a trap or a snare. Here it designates something that will cause another to sin. No person sins in a vacuum; others are affected. Jesus issues a strong warning

against being the cause of the apostasy of others, particularly those less mature in years or experience (see [Matt. 18:6, 7](#)).<sup>1</sup>

- There are three types of people in the world:
  - ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ **people**-those who cause offensives and tear others down.
  - ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ **people**-those who make little or no impact upon others because they are not actively engaged in the mission that God has given to them.
  - ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ **people**-those who edify or build up others in their faith because they are fulfilling the mission and the mandate that God has placed on their lives.

Quote: "There is something worse than going to hell, and that's taking others with you." -Skip Heitzig

## 2. Live your life in a \_\_\_\_\_ of accountability and \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3-4).

- ***What happens in a healthy community of faith?***
  - ✓ You call each other out when one falls into sin.
  - ✓ You forgive others when they sin against you and repent.

Quote: N. Mandela "Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies."

- ✓ You open up your life to others by spending quality time with them.

**Application:** You will not be able to experience this type of community apart from being in a small group.

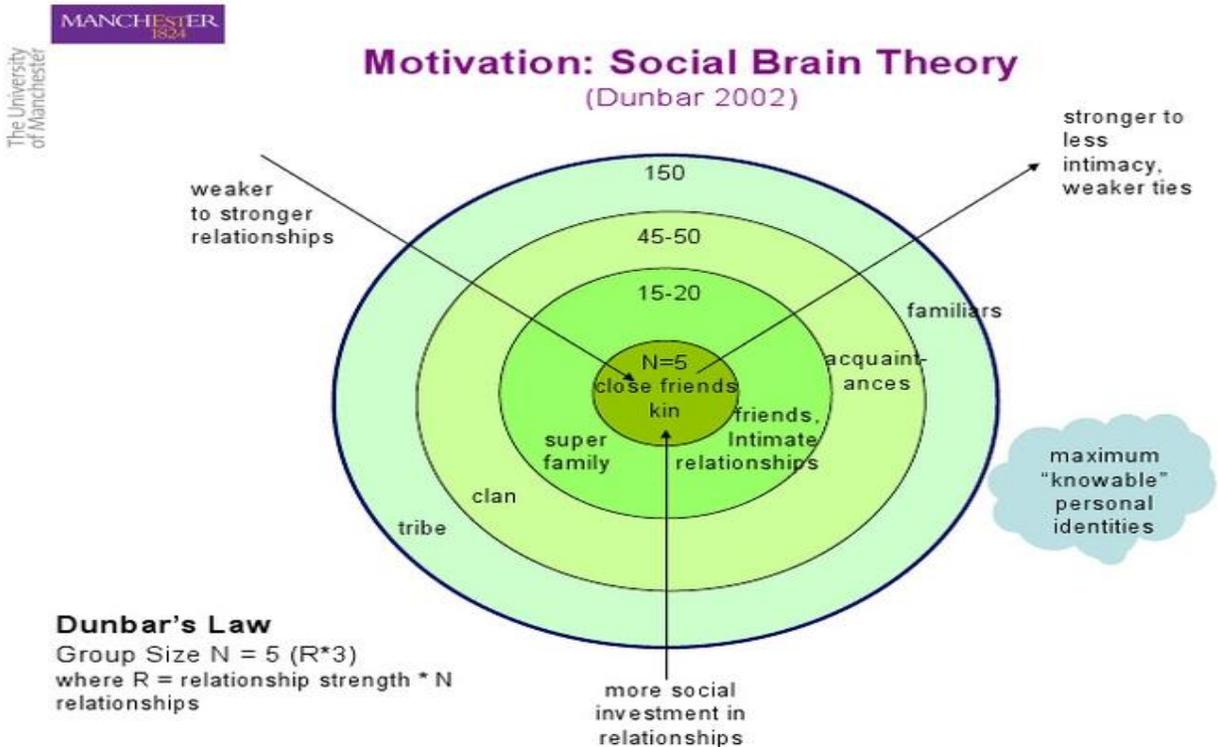
Did you know that the average person can maintain stable social relationships with only 150 people on a very surface level?<sup>2</sup>

***This is why as our church grows larger, it must grow smaller through Life Groups.***

<sup>1</sup> Quote from New Spirit-filled Life Bible.

<sup>2</sup> From social scientist Robin Dunbar.

Acts 2:46-47; <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.



3. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ levels of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5).
  - The disciples felt overwhelmed by Jesus' challenge to forgive and to avoid offenses that they asked Jesus to increase their faith.
  - This is a really good prayer that God likes to answer—"Lord, increase our faith."
  
4. Believe that even a \_\_\_\_\_ faith can make a \_\_\_\_\_ impact (v. 6).
  - The mustard seed is a metaphor for something that starts off very small but has tremendous potential.
  - Here are some faith lessons we can learn from this parable:

- ✓ If you have just a little faith (as small as a mustard seed), you see God do amazing things.
- ✓ If you have just a little faith, you can speak God's Word and see God's will take place in your life.

**Scripture Insight:** *mulberry tree*. Scholars usually identify the tree here as the black mulberry; its wide root system reportedly made it hard to uproot.<sup>3</sup> The black mulberry tree has a vast root system that allows it to live up to six hundred years.<sup>4</sup>

- ✓ If you have just a little faith, you can see that faith creates movement.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus gives you the power to overcome the mountains that you face in your life today (Philippians 4:13).

**Today's Big Idea (A short summary):** When faith and forgiveness collide, great mountains are moved!



1. Stop talking *about* your mountain and start speaking God's Word *to* your mountain!
2. Start *speaking God's Word* in faith over your problems every day.
3. If you are not in a group, *join one* this week!

**Preview for next Sunday:** "Living for Kingdom Impact," Part 2 from Luke 17:7-10.

**Put on your calendar:** Fall Launch on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Invite an unchurched friend. Stay for lunch after the 11:00 service.

<sup>3</sup> Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

<sup>4</sup> Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.