A scroll of aged, yellowish-brown parchment is shown, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is held by two wooden rollers on the left and right sides. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. So watch yourselves. ....

Luke 17:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come,

**Causes of stumbling?  
What sort of stumbling?  
Why are they inevitable?**



but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck ...



Terrible consequences ...  
It would be better if !!!

than to cause one of these little ones to stumble."

**Who are "these little ones"?**



than to cause one of these little ones to stumble."

**Who is more guilty?**

**The one making the mistake, or the one causing them to?**



So watch yourselves.  
If your brother or sister sins against you, **rebuke** them;

It applies to us – a serious cause of stumbling  
**Problems aren't solved by ignoring them**



So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; **and if they repent, forgive them.**

It applies to us – a serious cause of stumbling  
**unforgiveness**



So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them

## **Got the wrong end of the stick? Taken offence? When should you forgive?**

*People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, People may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, People may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, They may be jealous; Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway.*

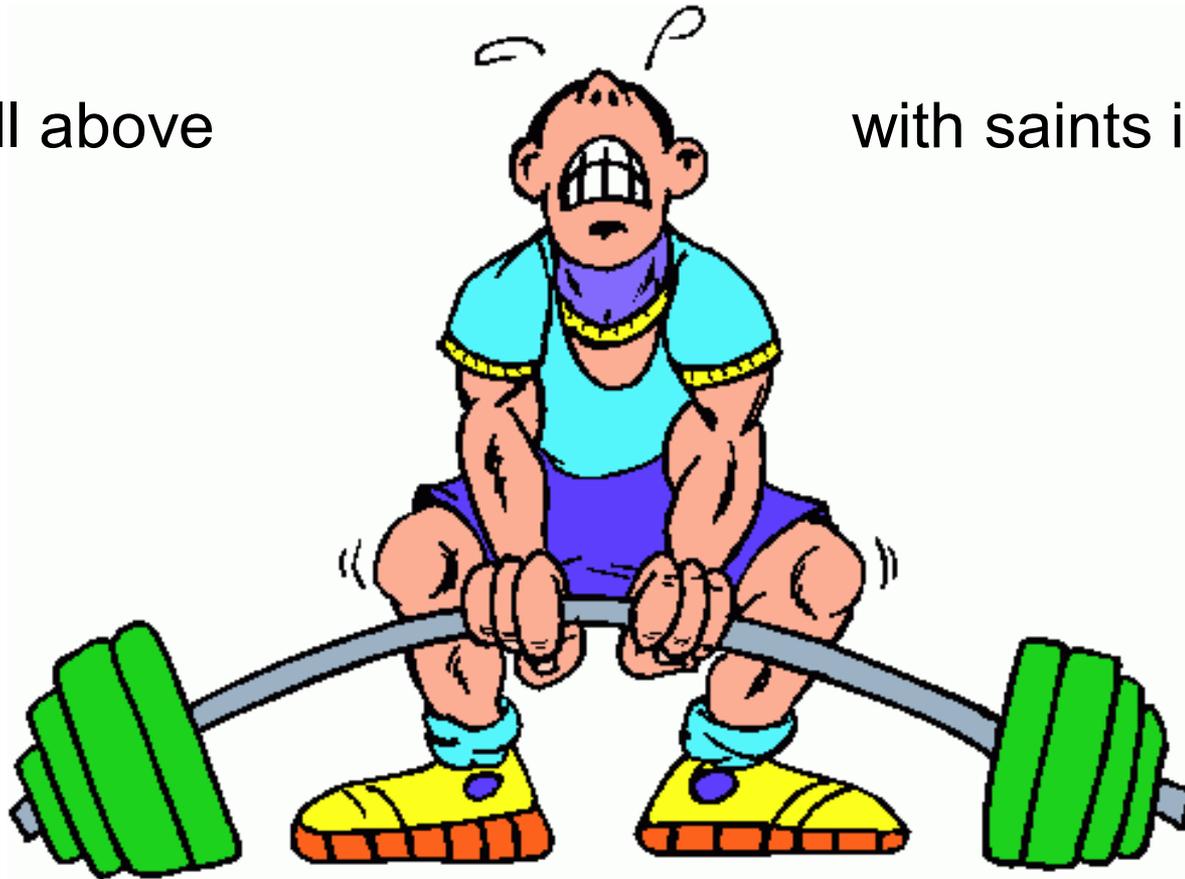
*Mother Teresa*

Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them. The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'

**Such a challenging standard – needs more faith?**

“To dwell above

with saints in love ....”



The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."



It's not more faith you need  
it's real faith that has God's life in it



**Real** faith is very powerful

You can live this way if my power is within you. eg Stephen

# **What is the danger of success?**



Suppose one of you has a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?



The servant's job description

Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'

**Danger of pride because of faith's power  
Temptation to think of rewards!!!**

**'Unworthy'**

doesn't mean useless  
but undeserving of merit



“We sleep half our lives; we give God a tenth of our time; and yet we think that with our good works we can merit Heaven. What have I been doing to day? I have talked for two hours. I have been at meals three hours. I have been idle four hours. Ah! enter not into judgment with your servant, O Lord !” Luther

**Just a job to do by God's grace**

Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field,  
'Come along now and sit down to eat'?



**Contrast Jesus' ways as a very different master.**

**Be careful that we follow his example  
and not cause others to stumble in their faith in God**