

## **“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)**

*Selected Reflections From Luke*

### **You and a Millstone: *Together In The Sea***

#### **Luke 17**

Here is the opening paragraph of Luke 17.

*And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."*

Jesus wanted His disciples to know, and He wants us to know: “temptations to sin are sure to come.” We would all agree and join in this testimony, because we know we are tempted; we are the object or target of temptation. But Jesus also wants us to understand, we should never be the cause. He expresses that in dramatic language: “...but woe to the one through whom they come.” Then, to punctuate how serious this is, He gave this picture: “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.”

So, if temptation is a reality. And if the Lord warns us sternly about not being the cause of someone stumbling, what do we need to do? Verse 3: “Pay attention to yourselves!”

Self-examination that is consistent and disciplined, can keep us from being the cause of someone’s sin.

But what if someone sins against me? Keep reading. “If your brother sins ... *post it on Facebook...*” No. Not in my Bible or your Bible. Instead, “if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.” You may hear someone in the background saying, “what if he sins again?” “Then can I nail him and walk away?”

No. "...if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Yes, a challenging passage that requires maturity of faith. Watch, then, for that millstone around your neck.

-Warren E. Berkley