

THE SPARK OF GROWTH LUKE 17:1-6

The Spark of Forgiveness. We forgive others by choice because we have been forgiven by grace.

The Spark of Understanding. Rather than judging others, or condemning others, we seek to view the world through their eyes

The Spark of Kindness. You strive to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The Spark of Generosity. It's all about being a giver. This means that you give first. It starts with you, and what you give comes back to

Three areas in which we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard.

1. Model a higher standard of I_____.

Jesus warns us in this passage about the need to avoid the flip side of influence.

Jesus is saying that when you give someone the idea — through your words or your actions — that it is OK to sin in one area or another, you are placing yourself in dangerous s_____ territory.

People tend to take their behavioral cues from others, especially those who are in leadership, as in: If you do it, then I can do it, too.

An easy trap to fall into is to have the attitude that says: "*It's not wrong when I do it; it's only wrong when someone else does it.*"

V3 So watch yourselves. This is something we should all remember to do. Watch yourselves, because others are watching you too.

2. Model a Higher Standard of R_____.

If you're willing to extend to others only a single second chance, then you won't have much success in helping others experience the kind of restoration that leads to a life of growth, progress and victory.

To rebuke, in this context, means that you confront the problem in a way that is conducive to reconciliation, restoration, and healing.

When you're deeply committed to restoring someone who has fallen, you need to settle in for the long haul — because it might take them more than one or two tries to get it right.

3. Model a higher standard of f_____ -filled living.

V5 "Increase our faith!"

Jesus is saying, in effect, you don't need more faith. You just need to use the faith that you have.

Be the example that others need to see.

