

Friday, May 13

³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

1. We have often discussed how the key question about the faith is not whether you believe *in God*, but rather whether you *believe God*. Do you believe God when he says this?
2. Is there a brother or sister that you have not yet forgiven?
3. Are you willing to hold onto this until you stand before the Lord?
4. Are we guaranteed a beautiful ending if we genuinely want to show mercy? (see vs. 15-20)
5. What does it mean to forgive your brother from your heart?
 - a. How is this possible even if reconciliation with them is not?

KTFK: it with / demands, and / know his / Hearts of / our Lord / mercy extend / is what / those who / their hands. / true forgiveness

Song: “I Believe In Jesus”

Prayer: “Lord God, help me to hear your word with ears that are sensitive and with a heart that is truly contrite before you, ready to do for others as you have done for me. Bring to my mind anyone that I need to forgive, anyone you would have me seek to be restored to, that I might demonstrate in this life-giving way that I am indeed a child of God. Amen.”

Saturday, May 14

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

May 9 - Though we / may want / to hold / a grudge / about another's / crimes, our / Lord would / have us / still forgive / to seventy-seven / times.

May 10 - He has / the power / and the / heart to / zero any / debt, so / come to / him upon / your knees / that all / he might / forget.

May 11 - As we / go about / the work / of settling / accounts, let / us seek / their restoration / not exact amounts.

May 12 - When we / refuse to / give to / others the / mercy we've / received, we / reveal the / gospel is / not what / we believe.

May 13 - Hearts of / true forgiveness / is what / our Lord / demands, and / those who / know his / mercy extend / it with / their hands.

Family Worship 2022

May 9 - 14

Matthew 18:21-35 - Forgiveness

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily **KTFK - Key Thought for Kids** (Answers on back page)

This week we look at the fourth of the Life Action themes: Forgiveness. As Christians, forgiveness is something that we should be thoroughly familiar with and also thoroughly supportive of. But, that isn't always the way things go. In fact, true forgiveness can be one of the most difficult things for people to demonstrate. Let's think hard this week on this critical concept for our lives, both now and eternally.

Monday, May 9

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

1. Read Matthew 18:15-20. Why do you think Peter would ask Jesus how many times he must forgive his brother after Jesus has just taught them about what to do when their brother sins against them?
 - a. What does the process in verses 15-20 require of the person who has been sinned against?
 - b. How difficult is this to do?
 - c. Have you ever done this?
 - d. What must you cherish in order to follow these instructions?
2. In those instructions, Jesus teaches that at some point the church must treat those refusing to reconcile with their brother as a Gentile or tax-collector. What does this mean?
 - a. Have you ever seen a situation like this in the church?
3. How might this very difficult result also cause people not to want to even seek out the repentance of those who have wronged them?
4. Have you ever not wanted to forgive someone? Why?
5. Is there anyone you have chosen not to forgive? Why?
6. Why do you think God makes our willingness to forgive others so absolute?
 - a. Doesn't he understand how hard it is?

KTFK: Lord would / to seventy-seven / a grudge / Though we / times. / to hold / have us / about another's / may want / still forgive / crimes, our

Song: “There's Power In The Blood”

Prayer: “Lord God, you value true relationship so much that you instruct us to pursue those brothers who have wronged us and pursue them in order that they might be forgiven and our relationship with them might be restored. Help us, Lord, to value these relationships as you do, and to follow your instructions for seeking and wanting forgiveness and restoration. Amen.”

Tuesday, May 10

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

1. We spoke recently about how Jesus’ parables are almost always about some specific aspect of the kingdom of heaven.
 - a. What aspect of the kingdom of heaven is this parable about?
2. When is this “settling of accounts” that is portrayed here to be happening?
 - a. How and where is this happening now?
 - b. What tool, or message, does the church use as God is settling his accounts during this, the Day of Salvation?
3. This servant pleaded with his master once the master confronted the servant with his extreme debt but not before. What does that tell us about the work of settling accounts that God is in the process of doing?
4. What does the extent of this servant’s debt (which, in today’s money, would be as much as ten billion dollars) tell us about the master’s forgiveness limits?
5. At this point, it would seem as though this man had experienced a genuine encounter with God in the gospel – having repented of his sin and been forgiven. But, is there anything here that already hints that things aren’t as pure as they seem?

KTFK: your knees / zero any / him upon / the power / forget. / he might / come to / and the / debt, so / that all / heart to / He has

Song: “Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

Prayer: “Lord God, it is simply amazing that you are so ready to forgive, and to forgive even those who owe you as much as we do. May none of us miss the full and genuine experience of receiving your full forgiveness through our genuine repentance and faith in you. Thank you for these unspeakable gifts, O Lord. Amen.”

Wednesday, May

²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

1. A hundred denarii would be approximately equivalent to \$15,000.
 - a. Is this a small debt, or simply small in comparison to what the first servant owed the master?
 - b. Why is this important for us to note?
 - c. What does this tell us about God’s perspective on the debts that others owe us?
2. What does the manner with which this servant confronts his fellow servant tell us about his goal in this “settling of accounts”?
 - a. Is he wanting to restore the relationship?
 - b. Or is he wanting something else?
3. Why is this important to remember, given Jesus’ instructions to us in the previous section (vs. 15-20) when someone has sinned against us?
 - a. Does God want us to settle accounts with others or not?
 - b. For what purpose?
4. What is it about having a just case against another person that makes us want to milk it for all its worth?

- a. Should we be people of justice?
- b. What does that mean?
- c. What are its limits?
- d. How does it relate to also being people of mercy?

KTFK: accounts, let / amounts. / As we / their restoration / go about / of settling / us seek / the work / not exact

Song: “Blessing”

Prayer: “Lord God, too often we choose between either avoiding the work of settling accounts or we go about it for the wrong purpose – as though your will was that we seek justice from our brothers and sisters rather than an opportunity to display mercy. Help us not to define mercy as not wanting to settle accounts, but also not seek to settle accounts in a way that doesn’t center on mercy. Amen.”

Thursday, May 12

³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

1. Here we find that the repentance this servant first evidenced was not genuine. On Tuesday we asked whether or not there was already something about this servant’s “repentance” that didn’t smell right. Did you come up with anything?
2. Even in the light of the enormous debt he owed the master (perhaps as much as \$10 billion), he pleaded with the master for patience, promising that he would pay it all back. Was he serious?
 - a. How might this idea of believing that one can even attempt to pay God back what we owe him indicate that we really aren’t embracing the mercy and grace of God?
 - i. How does it minimize the debt that is owed?
 - ii. How is it connected to pride rather than contriteness?
 - iii. How might it create a life of religiosity rather than humble faith?
 - iv. How might this kind of thinking explain how people can cherish being members of the church and yet be very judgmental and unforgiving towards their brothers and sisters?
 - b. How is the idea of seeking to pay back everything to God different than the idea of giving yourself to him completely in gratefulness for his mercy?
 - i. How might these seem very similar?
 - ii. Which are you engaged in?
3. Do you think the master gets reports like this very often?

KTFK: give to / we believe. / received, we / refuse to / not what / reveal the / others the / When we / gospel is / mercy we’ve

Song: “The Heart of Worship”

Prayer: “Lord God, what a great offense against the majesty of your mercy is the lives of those who claim to have received your forgiveness and yet, in their pride, continue to seek to prove that they really don’t need that much of it, and show that this is what they believe about themselves by how little mercy they seek to show to their brothers. Lord, purge us of this insidious evil, that we might never face the anger that the master shows his wicked servant here. Amen.”