

October 28, 2018

Learning Forgiveness from the Master

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
-------------	---------

Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

In **Matthew 18:21**, Peter asked Jesus, “***Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?***”

Jesus’ reply, “***I don’t tell you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven,***” (**verse 22**) is a figurative way of saying there should be no numerical limit on our willingness to forgive.

The parable told in **verses 23-35** of the chapter drives home this point.

In the parable, Jesus told of a servant who owed his master ten thousand talents. His master demanded he pay up, and the servant begged for forgiveness.

The master, moved with compassion, forgave the debt (**verse 27**).

The forgiven servant found a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii, and demanded *he* pay up.

This fellow servant owed the servant about 1/600000, or 0.00017%, of the debt his master forgave him of. Yet, when the fellow servant could not pay, the servant cast him into prison.

When the master learned of his servant’s actions, the master “***was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors, until he should pay all that was due to him***” (**verse 34**).

Learning Forgiveness from the Master

(Continued)

This illustrates God's reaction toward those who are unwilling to forgive others. If He is willing to forgive us upon obedience to Him, why would we not be willing to forgive others? No one is less deserving of *our* forgiveness than we are of *God's* forgiveness.

Christ's teachings that encourage forgiveness match the example He left us (cf. **Luke 23:34**).

Take, for example, Peter's denial. We know that after Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, Peter wept bitterly, recognizing the severity of what he had done (**Matt. 26:75**). But a question that is heartbreaking to think about is what Jesus would have been thinking when Peter denied Him. Jesus knew it would happen beforehand (**Matt. 26:34**), but that would not have made it easy to see Peter deny Him three times.

When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He asked Peter three times if he loved Him, and gave the instruction to feed (or tend) his lambs (or sheep) (**John 21:15-17**). It was apparent that Jesus did not hold a grudge or resentment against Peter, but instead wanted to help Peter serve God moving forward.

Consider also the example of the woman caught in adultery in **John 8**.

Her accusers asked Jesus if she should be stoned, claiming to ask out of respect for Moses' Law (**verses 3-6**). Jesus' response in **verse 7** was: "**He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her.**" The accusers each left, "**being convicted by their conscience**" (**verse 9**). When no one was left but Jesus and the woman, He said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more**" (**verse 11**).

Forgiveness does not minimize sin (notice Jesus words "**sin no more**"), but it seeks to help others receive the gift of forgiveness that Jesus gave His life for.

Forgiveness is about building others up, rather than tearing others down.

It does not please God or help anyone make it to heaven when we retaliate or hold a grudge against those who have wronged us. What if God held a grudge against us for the wrong we have done toward Him?

May we heed the example of the One who, unlike us, needs no forgiveness, and yet openly offers it to all who will repent and turn from sin to accept the gift He gave His life for.

-Michael Hickox

Area Gospel Meetings

Elm Grove Church of Christ:

Oct. 28 - Nov. 2 (with Wayne Walker)

Sun: 10:30, 3:30; M-F: 7:00

Casey Westside church of Christ:

Nov. 11 - Nov. 16 (with David Eldridge)

Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00; M-F: 7:00

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

Words to Consider

“...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” –2 Peter 1:5-7

Prayer List

Holly G
 Barb A
 Harold B (Prostate Cancer)
 Sandy S (Foot Injury)
 Betty P
 Mabel H
 Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
 Cheryl S (Breast Cancer)
 Norma C (Injuries from fall)
 Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
 Mattie B (Leukemia)
 Tom B (Pancreatic Cancer)
 Linda & Family
 Dody G
 Joe B (Lung Cancer)
 Allen S (Cancer)
 Jeanette & Family
 Brian H (Meningitis)
 Raymond B

Daily Bible Reading

Oct. 28 – Isaiah 55-56; 1 Timothy 2
 Oct. 29 – Jeremiah 1-2; 1 Timothy 3
 Oct. 30 – Jeremiah 3-5; 1 Timothy 4
 Oct. 31 – Jeremiah 6-8; 1 Timothy 5
 Nov. 1 – Jeremiah 9-11; 1 Timothy 6
 Nov. 2 – Jeremiah 12-14; 2 Timothy 1
 Nov. 3 – Jeremiah 15-17; 2 Timothy 2

“I have hidden your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” –Psalm 119:11

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, October 28, 2018

Bible Study:

Worship: Jim

Evening: Travis

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Mike

Cleaning Building

Cynde (Oct) / Paula (Nov)

Prepare Communion

Donna (Oct) / Jessica (Nov)

Upcoming Reminders

Nov. 24: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Steve

Serve: Darrell

Carlyle

Jim

Travis

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Invitation: Dave

Anniversaries

November 20 - Mike & Rowena

Birthdays

October 29 - Morgan

November 6 - Lindsay

November 13 - Misty

November 20 - Patsy