

June 28, 2020

## Learning Forgiveness from the Master

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
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
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall  
**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

*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 payment, 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 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 one retaliates or holds a grudge against those who have wronged him or her. What if God held a grudge against each of 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 come to Him on His terms and accept the gift He gave His life for.

**-Michael Hickox**

## Area Gospel Meetings

Bellair Church of Christ:  
July 6-10 (with Jim Stauffer)  
M-F: 7:00

First City Church of Christ (Vincennes):  
July 20-24 (with various speakers)  
M-F: 7:00 (Eastern time)

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## 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

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## Words to Consider

***"This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have our trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."***– 1 Timothy 4:9-10

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Randy & Kim S  
Ken & Chris F  
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)  
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella  
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

June 28 – 2 Samuel 16-18; Luke 17:20-37  
June 29 – 2 Samuel 19-20; Luke 18:1-23  
June 30 – 2 Samuel 21-22; Luke 18:24-43  
July 1 – 2 Samuel 23-24; Luke 19:1-27  
July 2 – 1 Kings 1-2; Luke 19:28-48  
July 3 – 1 Kings 3-5; Luke 20:1-26  
July 4 – 1 Kings 6-7; Luke 20:27-47

***"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."***– Psalm 19:7-8

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Bible Study:

Worship: Dan D

Evening:

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Harold

### **Clean Building**

Cynde (June) / Halls (July)

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna (June) / Halls (July)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

*\*Sunday afternoon services are cancelled*

*today (will resume next week)*

*\*Wednesday adult class study: Malachi*

*\*Next Sunday adult class study: Mark 2:13ff*

*\*Our summer Gospel meeting is scheduled  
for August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Travis

Table: Dan H

Serve: Steve

Mason

Dan D

Roger

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Invitation: Mike

### **Anniversaries**

July 11 – Ethan & Lindsay

July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

### **Birthdays**

July 8 – Mark

July 12 – Holly

July 12 – Jessilyn