

November 17, 2019

## Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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Olney, IL 62450  
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## 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 18:23-35**, Jesus spoke a parable that teaches our need to be forgiving. This parable tells of a servant whose master was willing to forgive him of a debt he could not pay, but this same servant was unwilling to show mercy toward a *fellow* servant.

An interesting thing about this parable is that the servant owed his master “**ten thousand talents**” (**verse 24**), while his fellow servant owed him “**one hundred denarii**” (**verse 28**). The servant owed his master about *600,000 times as much* as his fellow servant owed him.

This contrast has a lesson for us. No matter how much one has wronged us, it does not compare to how much we have wronged God. Without Christ’s sacrifice, the “debt” we owe God could never be paid. If God is willing to forgive us when we submit to His terms, how much more should we be willing to forgive others?

Similarly, if we are *not* willing to forgive others, why should we expect God to forgive *us*? Notice **Matthew 6:14-15**: ***For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don’t forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***

May we not hold grudges, bitterness, or resentment, but be forgiving toward others, as we desire God to be toward us.

**-Michael Hickox**

# Christ: The Spiritual Lifeline

By Michael Hickox

The hymn *Throw Out the Lifeline*, written by Edwin S. Ufford, encourages Christians to tell others about Jesus. We must “throw out” the spiritual lifeline by sharing the Gospel of Christ.

Part of one version of the song includes an exhortation to those not in a saved condition. The final three verses state:

*This is the lifeline, oh, tempest-tossed men, Baffled by waves of temptation and sin; Wild winds of passion, your strength cannot brave, But Jesus is mighty, and Jesus can save.*

*Jesus is able! To you who are driv'n Farther and farther from God and from Heav'n, Helpless and hopeless, o'erwhelmed by the wave, We throw out the lifeline—'tis, "Jesus can save."*

*This is the lifeline, oh, grasp it today! See, you are recklessly drifting away; Voices in warning, shout over the wave, Oh, grasp the strong lifeline, for Jesus can save.*

Sin separates us from God (**Isa. 59:2**). Every one who has reached a point of accountability before God has sinned (**Rom. 3:23**), and is thereby on the path to eternal death in hell (**Rom. 6:23a**), until we “grasp the lifeline” Jesus offers

(**Rom. 6:23b**). Grasping this lifeline requires being born again spiritually (**John 3:3**), as we are baptized and “bury” the old life of sin, rising to walk in “**newness of life**” (**Rom. 6:3-4**). We then hang onto the lifeline by obeying God’s commands for us to the best of our ability moving forward.

If someone was drowning in water and he or she were thrown a lifeline, it would be obvious that he or she needed to grasp onto the lifeline. Without it, the individual would be hopeless.

Yet, few recognize their need for a *spiritual* lifeline. Few realize how lost and helpless they are. Thus, few see the need to give their lives to Christ.

Jesus is “**the way, the truth, and the life**” (**John 14:6**), but we must recognize our *need* for Him and seek Him fervently.

This would seem a light thing to ask for the opportunity to receive eternal life. The reason the chance for eternal life exists is because “**while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**” (**Rom. 5:8**).

For anyone who is not faithfully obeying Christ, why not “grasp the lifeline” today by submitting to Him?

For those who *are* faithfully obeying Christ, may we “hang on tight” to that lifeline, and, as the song encourages, “throw out the lifeline” to others by doing what we can to lead others to salvation.

## 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

***“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’ – John 6:35***

***“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? For if I were still pleasing men, I wouldn't be a servant of Christ.” – Galatians 1:10***

***“There is no creature that is hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.” – Hebrews 4:13***

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Betty P  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Dody G  
Joe B  
Allen S (Cancer)  
Raymond & Maxine  
Randy & Kim S  
Mike & Family  
Ken & Chris F  
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)  
Jeff D  
Betty H (Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

November 17 – Jeremiah 51-52; Hebrews 9  
November 18 – Lament. 1-2; Heb. 10:1-18  
November 19 – Lament. 3-5; Heb. 10:19-39  
November 20 – Ezekiel 1-2; Heb. 11:1-19  
November 21 – Ezekiel 3-4; Heb. 11:20-40  
November 22 – Ezekiel 5-7; Hebrews 12  
November 23 – Ezekiel 8-10; Hebrews 13

***“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”***  
– 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Bible Study: Jeff

Worship: Mark

Evening: Roger

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mike

### **Clean Building**

Deb

### **Prepare Communion**

Deb

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Nov. 23: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: Redeeming the Land (Ruth 4:1-6) &*

*"Take Off Your Sandal" (Ruth 4:7-12)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Roger

Table: Larry

Serve: Jeff

Travis

Harold

Steve

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Invitation: Mike

### **Anniversaries**

November 20 – Mike & Rowena

### **Birthdays**

November 20 – Patsy

November 21 – Tretyn

November 25 – Mason

November 27 – Roger