

Sermon Study Guide – November 4th, 2018:

Today's Focus – "God Wants a Church that Forgives as He Forgives"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How does our world define forgiveness? When do people withhold forgiveness? What conditions do they add to forgiveness? Why might it be hard to forgive someone?
- ◆ How does God forgive us? Does he ever withhold forgiveness? What can we learn from him about forgiveness?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. How does the master “forgive” in the parable? Whose forgiveness does this correspond to in reality? How does the servant “forgive”? Who does this correspond to?
2. Describe the debt we owe God.
3. How does God view this debt? (*i.e. How does God look at forgiveness?*)
4. How does Jesus use the cross to teach us about forgiveness?
5. How can we overcome emotion and actually show the forgiveness God asks us to show?
6. How does today’s sermon text tie into Reformation?

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ When we show forgiveness like God, what impression will that leave on others? How might that help to grow our church? More importantly, what will that teach them about Christ?
- ◆ While today’s sermon encourages us always to be ready to forgive, or “release” a person from their sin, are there times where we should not actually do this? If so, when? (*hint: see Thurs. & Fri.’s readings for help...*)

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: review Ge. 50:15-21, Eph. 4:28-5:2 **Thursday:** Acts 2:22-41

Tuesday: Genesis 37

Friday: Luke 17:1-10

Wednesday: Psalm 130

Saturday: review Matt. 18:21-35