

SERMON NOTES . . .

“Forgiveness is Not Optional” Matthew 18:21-35

1. 1) _____ is commanded by God for the Christian.
- 2) _____ is intentional, not just a matter of emotions.
- 3) _____ is for who people are, not for what they do.
- 4) _____ is often hard to do.
2. How we relate to others is directly tied to our _____ with God.
3. Forgiveness is a foundational principle to Christian living yet one of the very things that holds many in _____ today.
4. “Forgive us our trespasses _____ we forgive those who trespass against us.”
5. We are commanded to forgive because _____ has forgiven us.
6. God does not hate our sin any less when He forgives us but He choose to forgive us because of His great _____.
7. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we can forgive the person who doesn’t deserve it – that involves _____.
8. Jesus commands us to love our neighbor but also our _____.
9. Jesus didn’t forgive only the righteous but also the _____. “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”
10. Forgiveness is as much a _____ for us as it is for the other person.
11. The sin of unforgiveness is a _____ that destroys relationships, eats away at one’s own life, and shuts us off from God’s grace.
12. You will never truly be able to forgive yourself if you’ve not experienced being forgiven by _____.

The Time to Forgive is Now



Be kind and
compassionate to One
another, forgiving each
other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

Welcome to West Prairie Lutheran Church!

Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

40041 150th Ave., P.O. Box 9, Leland, IA 50453 - Steve Bang, pastor

Please sign the attendance sheet provided in each pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address. We invite you to join us again!

Worship Service for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 a.m., September 17, 2017

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, *You Servants of God*.....LBW #252

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise page 79

Prayer of the Day

(All) O God, we thank You for Your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by His example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow His commands; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You may be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today . . .

7 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday, Sept. 12 . . .

7 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Next Sunday, September 24 . . .

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:30 Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11 a.m. Bible Study Group with Candy Johnson, hostess

7 p.m. Youth Group

Sion's Fall Fellowship is **TODAY** from 11 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Worship at 11 a.m.; meal, bake sale, and pumpkin & gourd sales at noon. Old fashioned sing along from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Meal at noon is pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, chips, bars, ice cream, & drink. (Adults \$7, Children 10 & under \$4)

Salem WELCA of Lake Mills, invites all ladies of West Prairie to their Salad Luncheon Guest Day on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Hedin Schmidt will give the program at 1 p.m. on his recent trip to Israel.

Bible Study Club meets next Sunday after Sunday School with a potluck dinner followed by a movie.

Announcements can be sent to westprairie.lc@gmail.com. October newsletter articles are due September 28th.

Waldorf Lutheran Association of Congregations annual meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. in Salveson Hall Ballroom. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. in Salveson Lobby. Complimentary lunch at 12 p.m. RSVP Cindy Carter @ 641-585-8130 or carterc@waldorf.edu by Thurs., Sept. 28 if you plan to attend.

Prayer List — Health concerns for Jonie Bang, Leah Branstad, Alan Goranson, Denise Holst, Misty Juveland, Marlys Haugen, Blanche Durby, Dale Zingg, Elaine Ritz, Carver Moffat, Mike Haack, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Eldora Reil; Angela Haugen in the military. All prayer requests can be submitted to www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer; leave a message on the church answering system @641-567-3733; or call Pastor Steve @641-590-7894.

Please stand.

Offertory, *Create In Me a Clean Heart*..... page 96

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer page 97

Benediction..... page 97

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn, *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* LBW #294

Postlude

Pastor: Steve Bang

Pianist: Melissa Phillips

Lectionary: Caroll Carson

Ushers: John Haugen and Bryon Holst

Acolyte: Madison Branstad

good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Psalm 103:1-12 (responsively)

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: and forget not all His benefits.

L: He forgives all your sins

C: and heals all your infirmities;

L: He redeems your life from the grave

C: and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;

L: He satisfies you with good things,

C: and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

L: The Lord executes righteousness

C: and judgment for all who are oppressed.

L: He made His ways known to Moses

C: and His works to the children of Israel.

L: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

C: slow to anger and of great kindness.

L: He will not always accuse us,

C: nor will He keep His anger forever.

L: He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

C: nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

C: so is His mercy great upon those who fear Him.

L: As far as the east is from the west,

C: so far has He removed our sins from us.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

The Weak and the Strong

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat

everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Here ends the lesson.

Please stand.

Alleluia:page 83

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*.....page 83

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

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?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 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.

"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

"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.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ*..... page 83

You may be seated.

Hymn, I Lay My Sins on JesusLBW #305

The Sermon: Pastor Steve Bang

"Forgiveness is Not Optional" Matthew 18:21-35

Hymn, Forgive Our Sins as We ForgiveLBW #307

Please stand.

Apostles' Creedpage 85

Prayer

Congregational Response: Hear my prayer.

Sharing of the peace.

You may be seated.

Offering