



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

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Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

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."



Matthew 18:21-35 and Musings

This parable is one which is very clear and easy to understand.

The message is that we should forgive each other just as freely as God forgives us.

Whilst the message is very clear, it can be quite difficult to follow.

Who among us has never felt unforgiving, and annoyed, when someone has wronged us?

We live in a time where road rage exists; where people can become angry enough to kill a stranger who annoys them whilst they are driving. It can be something very simple – changing lanes – and the person sees it as a personal insult which needs to be avenged. The first servant in this parable seems a bit like a road "rager".

Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton has been invited to speak at many events on forgiveness. Lindy was wrongly convicted of killing her baby Azaria, and spent time in jail. It turned her life upside down. If anyone had the "right" to feel angry, bitter and vengeful, it was Lindy.

She has described un-forgiveness as "choosing to rent space inside your head" to the person you cannot forgive. It is as though you are allowing your head, and your heart, to be so full of un-forgiveness, that there is no room left for love, for joy, or for a way forward. Some people become consumed by how another person has wronged them. That it is all that they can think about, or talk about. It can destroy their lives.

Lindy has chosen to move on, and to allow fulfillment and happiness to grow, instead of letting old wounds dominate her life. That takes courage. It becomes a choice which is consciously made at the beginning – one which she may have had to choose again and again and again – until it became ingrained.

Choosing to forgive can take courage and strength... sometimes more strength than we feel we have. Asking God to help us through our un-forgiveness makes it possible for us to grow, and to become stronger.

It can also lead to an inner peace which only God can provide.

Blessings from Meg



Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12



"There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love." ~Bryant H. McGill

Life is short, smile while you still have teeth.~ anon

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

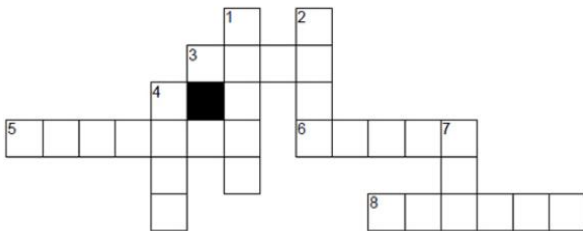
- We pray that Marg continues to feel well during her time of chemotherapy.
- We pray for congregations throughout the world who are unable to meet face-to-face. May each member still know Your love and peace.
- Many members of our congregation who have had some health issues over the past few months. We pray that they be restored to full health.
- We pray for the many people who have led our congregation over the years; for ministers, pastors, lay preachers, and members of the church council.
- We continue to pray for Margaret Davidson.

"Forgiveness is a gift you give to yourself, to be at peace, to be happy and to be able to sleep at night. **You don't forgive because you are weak but because you are strong enough to realize that only by giving up on resentment will you be happy."**

~Luminita D. Saviuc

A Lesson in Forgiveness

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:47-48



ACROSS

- 3. To like something or someone very much
- 5. To excuse or pardon someone for a fault
- 6. Drops of liquid which flow from the eye when a person cries
- 8. To cross out or erase

DOWN

- 1. The bills and coins which we use to buy things
- 2. Something owed, such as money
- 4. To touch with the lips to show affection, or as a greeting
- 7. To break God's law

Life always offers you a second chance. It's called tomorrow.

A great attitude becomes a great mood.
 A great mood becomes a great day.
 A great day becomes a great year.
 A great year becomes a great life. ~ unknown



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



THE TYRANNY OF VENGEANCE

Here we are, God
 With all that makes us who we are,
 all that fills our lives;
 Carrying the burdens we just can't seem to lay down,
 The weight of all the scores we long to have settled,
 the justice we want to demand for the wrongs we have suffered
 Yet we also know what would happen if you were to deal with us justly; with our greeds and betrayals and lusts.
 If justice was served in our lives we could not stand.

So forgive us our wrongs, God,
 forgive us as we do not deserve;
 forgive us against the demands of justice;
 And forgive our obsession that justice be done to those who have wronged us.

May You lead us to the place where our hunger for grace and mercy may be filled,
 And where we may be freed from the tyranny of vengeance.

Amen.

~ John van de Laar (amended)

Freely, Freely

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.
 I've been born again in Jesus' name
 And in Jesus' name I come to you
 To share his love as he told me to.

He said 'Freely, freely you have received;
 freely, freely give.

Go in my name, and because you believe,
 others will know that I live.

All power is given in Jesus' name
 In earth and heaven in Jesus name
 And in Jesus' name I come to you
 To share his power as he told me to.

You live most of your life inside of your head. Make sure it's a nice place to be.

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." ~ Mahatma Gandhi