

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Lord, you are full of compassion & mercy. (v8)

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love & adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came & said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife & children & all his possessions, & payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, & I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him & forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; & seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down & pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, & I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went & threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, & they went & reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him & said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. Consider other parables with “wicked slaves” *Matthew 24:45-51 & 25:14-30*. What do these slaves have in common? Selfishness? Laziness? Pride? Fear? Ruthlessness? Instrumentality? Exploitation? Reduction to potential? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.*
2. How does economic language illustrate our sins as “what we have done & what we have left undone”? How is grace economic, figuratively speaking? *See Romans 5:6-11, 21, 6:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:29-31; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:7*

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. Review the 10 Commandments & their explanation in the Small Catechism several times this week. Pray for God to enlighten you on each one. Who do you need to forgive? How long have you carried this unforgiveness? What have you gained from it? If you read the SC recently, read the Large Catechism this week. SC & LC available bookofconcord.org
4. Now, whose forgiveness do you need? In other words, to whom do you owe an apology & amends? Review the SC/LC: Office of the Keys/Confession. *Hint: it’s highly unlikely you have no answer to either question- keep praying. See SC:Table of Duties; Psalm 51; Matthew 5:23-26*

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. How can the Church’s witness of repentance & forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name (*Luke 24:47*) provide a meaningful alternative to the internet & evening news “cancel culture”?
6. What would need to change in your congregation in order to welcome someone who has been ostracized either for their unpopular behavior or their actual crimes & sins? (This isn’t necessarily accusatory in any direction.) How does our Christian message of forgiveness, new life, & reconciliation trump even our liabilities in the world? *See Matthew 10:16; Philippians 2:15*

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10th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Subversive Verses

08.06.23

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Yabbut

Yeah, but... No; clean up your own room first

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him
& forgave him the debt. (v27)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous;
your sins are forgiven on account of his name. (*1 John 2:1, 12*)

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