

Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 8

Number 26

August 1, 2021

The Unforgiving Servant

Jesus gives us the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-25. The occasion for the parable was brought about because of a question that was asked by Peter. Peter wanted to know how often he was to forgive his brother who sinned. You see, because of impetuosity, Peter was likely to bring down a lot of criticism on his head. He was likely also to become involved in arguments and disputes with his fellow disciples. The plain teaching of Jesus on forgiveness hit him hard.

In fact, he anxiously asked, "How long do I keep this up, until seven times?" I am quite certain that Peter thought 7 times was sufficiently liberal. The Rabbis required only repeating forgiveness 3 times. This was based on Job 33:29 and Amos 2:4. So here, Peter being magnanimous, is willing to forgive more than twice as much as the teachers of the law.

Yet, here Jesus says to him, to forgive until 70 times 7. Do the math and that comes up to 490 times we are to forgive our brother. However, Jesus did not mean for us to literalize this and forgive 490 times. Jesus meant for us to forgive an indefinite number of times.

You see, forgiveness is not a matter of arithmetic or book-keeping. Forgiveness is a matter of love, and love has no limits. To bring the lesson home, a lesson on forgiveness, Jesus related the story of the unmerciful servant.

Forgiveness is an uphill battle. We hold grudges because of hurt. We have a tendency to remember things that have hurt or scarred our lives. However, if we are going to walk in fellowship with God we must not continue to hold wrongs done to us against others.

Then again, we hold grudges because we are reactionary. You hurt me so I will hurt you. Now, if

that doesn't sound worthy of a two year old, I don't know what does. Say something bad about me and I will say something bad about you.

Also, we hold grudges because we would rather get even. You remember the man bitten by the rabid dog before there was a reliable cure for rabies? The doctor informed him that the tests were positive and he did indeed have rabies. He asked for a pen and paper and immediately began writing. The doctor said, "You need not do that, it is not always fatal, you don't need to be making our your will." The man replied, "who said anything about a will. I'm making a list of the people I am going to bite." Often we want those who have wronged us to pay and pay dearly, yet God says to forgive.

Our sins have made us a debtor to God. The enormity of this debt makes payment impossible. Yet, God shows mercy toward the person penitently humble. In so doing, He cancels the debt of sin in its entirety.

Jesus teaches us that the man who receives pardon should give pardon. Our forgiveness must be real forgiveness. It must come from the heart and must be more than just lip forgiveness.

God calls on us to forgive. We want to make excuses. We say, "You don't understand. That's just the way I am, I can't forgive them, this is just something I cannot get past." The next time someone who has wronged you is in need of forgiveness, and you think you just can't forgive them, remember the words of Jesus on the cross as he said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

tp

Tact is the unsaid part of what you think.

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

"Kindness"

Our text comes from Ephesians 4:32 where Paul writes for us to be kind one to another. Kindness is something is very short supply in our world today. We hope you find this study beneficial and edifying.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Chicken Broth

Just A Reminder. . . .

It was September 24, 2017 that Emanuel Samson entered the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in the Nashville, Tennessee area, opening fire and killing one person and injuring 7 others.

He entered the building through a back door as people were leaving the building. It was after this that we requested that everyone exit the building through the front entrance following worship for safety reasons. We would ask that everyone continue this practice. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

Bounty Hunting. . . .

In the Old West, according to legend, there were numerous "bounty hunters". These motley characters, while not lawmen in an official sense, made their living by tracking down fugitives for the price on their heads.

Well, the other day, I was thinking, my mind was rambling and I thought, "what would happen if we placed a bounty on the head of every lost sinner? How would Christians react to their desperate plight then?" I mean, let's face it, we have not actually turned the world upside down (we haven't even

turned Center upside down) nor have we caused much tremor in a quest for souls.

Great! Let's put a bounty on their heads. We will offer \$25.00 for every visitor brought to Bible Study and Worship. We will offer \$50.00 for every home Bible Study arranged with a friend, and we will pay \$250.00 for every baptism. You think that sounds a little callous? Does it sound a little carnal? Maybe so. But, think of the attendance records we would set. I know, you are wondering how I could suggest such a thing.

Okay, I'm sorry. We won't put a bounty on souls. We will just seek and save them because we love them and we love the Lord. When do we want to start?

*-Carthage, Texas bulletin 9/13/1973
Copied and adapted*

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*Studies have shown that women
who carry a few extra pounds tend to live longer
than men who mention it.*

On The Lighter Side....



BRINGING WORK HOME AGAIN?

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Miscellaneous

Friends & Family Day



Invite your family and friends and plan to be here!

September 12, 2021

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING – There will be a men's business meeting next Sunday (August 8, 2021) in the church office following the morning worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

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A.W. Tozer

“When you kill time, remember that it has no resurrection.”



Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Phillip Patton** (preacher at the Marshall Church of Christ) who passed away on Thursday evening. Services are pending.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Ted and Joyce Holt, Betty Miller, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Melvin Williams

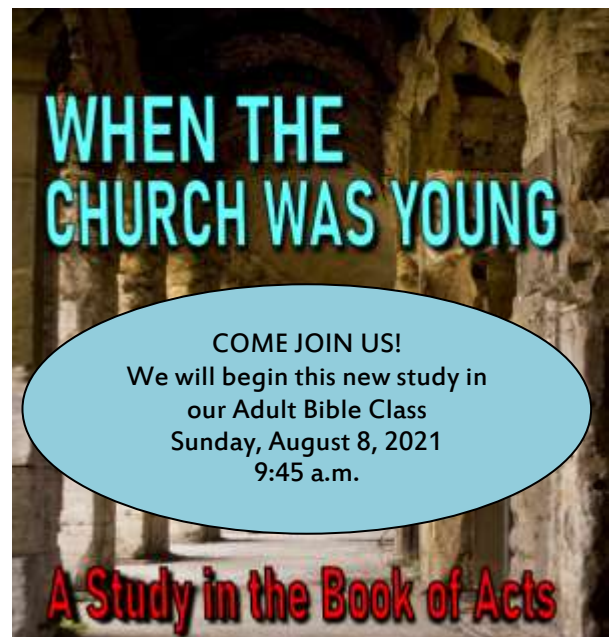
“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother)
Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) **Gil Boullion** (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-granddaughter)) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) **Keeth Fontenot** (Debra Pate's son) undergoing tests for suspicious knot on his neck **Gayle Foster** (Cancer) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'Brien,) cancer **Liam Martinez** (11 months old) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Phillip Patton** (COVID 19) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.





Across The Preacher's Desk

It is an exciting time when a toddler abandons crawling and takes those first faltering steps. Once that happens, it is not long until they are going to attempt to climb the stairs. If they have reached the talking stage, they will inform you that they will do it "all on their own". However, parents are standing nearby to see how they make out and make sure they do not fall. To be sure, that little toddler will reach the top safely if they just keep going. For them, the last step is just as easy as the first one. Trouble comes only if they begin to wonder why they are so high and they get in trouble if they turn back. It is then they will take a tumble.

Paul would write, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:13-14) As Christians pressing toward the goal, we can learn some things from a toddler. You see, our heavenly Father is standing by, ready to assist us when we stumble. We also can learn that the struggle is not greater as we climb higher, but it is easier because we have experience behind us. Then, it is dangerous to look back, we must forget what is behind.

It is a big adventure for a child to climb the stairs. It is the greatest possible adventure for us to climb the heights toward God. Are you moving closer to God day by day? If not, you should be.

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**God's Plan of
Evangelism....**

Each one bring one!