

Let's Visit

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Reflections On Forgiveness

Imagine being in Jerusalem on that fateful Friday that Jesus died. It was a day that changed the world. There is no doubt that the excitement of that hour was contagious. You see, there was excitement because three men were going to be executed. Three men were about to pay the death penalty for their crimes.

One of them was a prophet from Nazareth. The other two were revolutionists. The excitement was heightened as they were all well known. To be sure, the crowd had a natural love for the gruesome and they were eager for the show.

Not only were all three well known, they were all three popular. The revolutionists were ardent patriots. Having fought like men, they would die like men. The assembled crowd looked upon them as heroes. The young prophet had also been popular and he still was.

However, most of those around the cross that day were hostile. Having nailed the young prophet to the cross, he could not die in peace. Even the revolutionists added their insults to those of the mob. Yet, something happened that silenced one of the revolutionists. Then, his insults were changed into prayers. He had heard the young prophet on the central cross pray. He had listened as he talked to the heavenly Father. The young prophet had prayed, "Father, for give them for they know not what they do".

This is one of the most amazing utterances on the pages of history. Jesus had been hounded, betrayed and denied. He had been tried before an unjust court. He was led out of the city and nailed to a cross. Yet, his first word from the cross was not a complaint. It was not a plea for his own innocence. It was not a cry for vengeance on his enemies. It

was a prayer for forgiveness. Reading this prayer for forgiveness implies that he has forgiven them, because only a man with a forgiving soul can pray such a prayer.

The need for forgiveness among people in our day and time is great. There are many whose lives are unstained by sensuality. They are as far from immorality as east is from west. They attend church services with regularity. They are highly esteemed by their fellowman. Yet, they carry enough malice in their hearts to damn their souls.

God is not cruel, harsh, or stern in his dealings with His children. Throughout the Bible He is represented as a God of mercy. He is much more willing to forgive and forget than we are. Blessed is the man or woman in whose heart is found "the quality of mercy". That man or woman who holds no malice. The person who has learned to forgive men their trespasses. You see, that man or woman is God like. They are God's man or God's woman. They shall receive God's mercy.

There are so many that we should show mercy and forgiveness toward. We must forgive the Judases who have come into our lives. Those who prize us less highly than they do money. Judas must have known something of Jesus' beautiful life, tender compassion and marvelous power. Yet, Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. However, we must

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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

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

“Jesus and Anxiety”

Our text comes from The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus there exhorts us not to be anxious about the things of life, assuring us of the care of the Heavenly Father. It's good advice.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Canned Fruit

Reflections on Forgiveness – continued from page 1

not lose sight of the fact that Jesus was ready and willing to forgive a penitent Judas. There are those who would pretend to be our friend who would sell us for a minor consideration. We must not deal severely with them, rather let us lend them a helping hand.

We must forgive our unfaithful friends. Those that would forsake and desert us in a time of critical need. When the mob entered Gethsemane and laid hold on Jesus, the disciples forsook him and fled. When Jesus saw them after the resurrection, he dealt kindly with them. He called them “my brethren”. There may come a time in your life when you fall into heartless hands in an hour of misfortune. Your friends, some of them, may desert you. Hold no malice against them, but rather seek their fellowship and include them in the circle of “your brethren”.

Forgive the Simons who are too weak to know you in your hour of trial. You remember the boast that Simon Peter made? He said he would never be offended and would never deny Jesus. Yet, just a few hours later, he cursed and swore and said he did not know Jesus. Though he loved the Lord, he was moved from his loyalty by a concern for his personal safety. The disciple denied the Master, but

the Master did not deny the disciple. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He found Simon and restored him. There are times that our friends will be what we call “fair weather friends”. Let us not deal severely with these friends, though that is tempting and our first inclination. Rather, let us seek a loving interview with them and restore them as Jesus did Simon.

Like Jesus said, we must “forgive for they know not what they do”. Those Roman soldiers did not know what they were doing. The Jewish leaders thought they were doing God a service. Jesus had said that the time would come when those who killed his disciples would think they were doing God a service. Saul of Tarsus was just such a man. Yet, he became the great Apostle Paul and the greatest force for righteousness the world has ever known.

You see, we must forgive because we have been forgiven. If we do not forgive, hatred will rob us of the joy of The Christian life, enmity will embitter us and take from our soul the sweetness that has been planted there by Jesus.

Jesus left us an example that we should follow in His steps. He said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do”

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On The Lighter Side....



I had a wonderful visit preacher, and may I say, that I found the church every bit as meaningful, inspirational, caring, relevant and fun as your Facebook Ad and Newspaper Ad promised it would be!

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, March 7, 2021

**Covered Dish Luncheon
Make your plans to be
here!**

Remember-

We are collecting toilet paper for the Children's Home of Lubbock. There is a basket in the foyer for you to place the toilet paper in. They will be here the end of May to pick up what we have collected. Let's make sure they have a trailer load!



Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space. Hopefully this "present distress" will be a thing of the past soon and life can return to normal.

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Many "church folk" who should be "launching out into the deep" are still dabbling around in the wading pool.

*Water and words – easy to pour,
impossible to recover.*

*Some folks get all their exercise wrestling with
their conscience.*

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick (back issues) **Gene Bradshaw** (recovering from surgery), **Martha Jean Golden** (recovering from a bad fall) **Betty Miller** (pneumonia) **Wayne Sims** (cancer);

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Butler (Debra Pate's grandson) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-grandaughter) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) **Connie Hargrove** (Covid 19) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) **Ernie Hill** (Jerry Pate's cousin) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Foy Metcalf** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother, broken hip); **Royce Ann Wiggins** (lung damage from Covid Pneumonia) **Stephen Wiggins** (Recovering from broken leg and Covid 19)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

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

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**MAN'S LAWS
CANNOT MAKE MORAL
WHAT GOD HAS
DECLARED IMMORAL.
EVEN IF A SIN IS
LEGALIZED, IT'S
STILL A SIN IN THE
EYES OF GOD.**



Across The Preacher's Desk

When Paul wrote to Timothy in his second letter, he has this to say in chapter 3, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves....unthankful". Does that description fit us in our own day and time? Lovers of self would indicate a certain degree of selfishness and along with that comes a lack of gratitude.

The events of the past week were a trying experience to say the least. We were without power, we were without water and we were cold, very cold. Perhaps it revealed to us the many things we take for granted in our world.

We always assume that if we are cold, all we need to do is adjust the thermostat and we can be warmer. We are accustomed to turning on the faucet and being able to get water to make coffee, or cook our food or get a drink. We are accustomed to flipping a switch and having light in the room. Yet, during our bitter freeze last week, we did not have the use of these things we have come to take for granted.

If anything comes to us out of our cold weather experience, it is that we have many things in our life that we take for granted and do not appreciate as we should. However, more than electricity, heat and water, we should make certain we appreciate the people in our lives. The people who make our lives better. Let's make sure we don't take them for granted but thank God for them.

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

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**