Sermon Notes – The Commands of Jesus #2 – Forgive

Matthew 28:20 **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Each Commandment of Jesus Invites us to Examine Ourselves and Repent

"When you stand praying, forgive"

Mark 11:25-26 "**Whenever you stand praying, forgive**, **if you have anything against anyone**, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. 26 ["**But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.**"]

The Same Words in Matthew's Gospel Following Jesus Teaching them to Pray

Matthew 6:14-15 "**For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you**. 15 "**But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions**."

Luke 11:2-4 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. 3 'Give us each day our daily bread. 4 **'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us**. And lead us not into temptation.'"

- Some Very Sobering Self -Examination and Reflection Required Here

Forgive - to *send away*, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let it go, let it alone, let it be, omit, send away

We are Flawed People Living in a Broken World

The Value of the Freedom that Forgiveness Provides Without Forgiveness, Life Would Stink

Unforgiveness blocks effective prayer - Bless and do not curse

Preserving Relationships through Forgiveness – Relationship More Important than What You Suffered

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, **because love covers a multitude of sins.**

"Unforgiveness is a disease that will destroy you from the inside. It eats away at you until it consumes your peace and joy." https://lessonsfromhome.co

Forgiving is Hard – That's Why the New Testament Says so Much About It

Books Have Been Written on Forgiveness – It Reveals Places in Us Not Yet Yielded to the "New Life"

Matthew 18:21 "…Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but **up to seventy times seven."**

Luke 17:3-4 **"Be on your guard!** If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Vignette from the Parable of the Two Debtors – Forgiving to Bless God & Others

Luke 7:40-43 And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." 41 "**A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?"** 43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."

Vignette from The Story of the Prodigal – Introduction to Unconditional Pardon

Luke 15:18-24 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' 20 "So he got up and came to his father. **But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him,* and ran and embraced him and kissed him**. 21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "**But** the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and **let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found**.' And they began to celebrate.

Luke 6:35-36 "But **love your enemies, and do good**, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and **your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High**; for **He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men.* 36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

Vignette from the Parable of the Wicked Servant – We Still Have Reason to Fear God

Matthew 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Forgiveness can occur in a moment – Though it may need re-visiting

Bases on which we forgive: I'm Big Enough, I've Done the Same Thing… I've Been Forgiven & God Insists

Restoration is a firm but patient process (Galatians 6:1ff)

Cleansing the Soul – Then Being Willing to "Put it on Christ's Tab."

Ephesians 4:30-32 "**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 **Be kind to one another**, **tender-hearted**, **forgiving each other, just as God in**

Christ also has forgiven you."

Simply Put: It's the Command of Jesus - Forgive