

MONDAY 6.12.23 - Luke 17:3-4

All dissonant chords like to be resolved into peaceful major chords. Broken fellowship among believers is like dissonant chords and the music it makes is harsh and unruly. Broken fellowship should seek restoration through a process often called 'peace making.' Jesus taught that we should forgive each other when we wrong a friend, or more specifically when a friend wrongs us. How easy it is to harbor a secret anger which later blossoms into bitterness. Better it is to forgive. Simple things should be merely overlooked, but greater things need to be hashed out with kindness, compassion and mercy.

Repentance and forgiveness go together like a hand and glove. The alternative is too much to deal with. Consider the introductory verses 1 and 2. To not forgive, thus causing another to stumble, Jesus admonishes, 'better to be thrown into the sea...'

So let us remember to always be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 6.13.23 - Ephesians 4:31-32

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

I have a brother in Christ that I have offended. I am not sure what I did to hurt him. I have apologized even though I am unaware of what I have done. I have asked for forgiveness, but until now he has refused to do so. This saddens me, not for me, but for him. Every time he sees me his countenance drops. The sight of me completely shrouds his ability to see Christ. That is what bitterness does. Usually, it is not the person at which the bitterness is aimed who suffers, but rather the person harboring the bitterness. Worse yet, if that person is a Christian, it clouds their ability to see and worship Christ.

As you read this today, are you harboring bitterness toward someone? If so, I beseech you, do whatever it takes to let it go.

In doing so it will be good to have the human relationships restored and even better to have your spiritual relationship with Christ restored.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 6.14.23 - Galatians 3:1-5

The Apostle Paul is astonished that the Galatian believers have abandoned the truth of the gospel of Jesus and have embraced the Old Testament Law of Moses as a means of securing eternal salvation. Paul makes it abundantly clear that justification (being declared right in God's eyes) is a free gift (apart from works) and is received by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (2:16, 21). This was the initial belief of the Galatian Christians (1:6), and in the early verses of chapter 3, Paul reminds his readers of their personal experience when he preached the gospel to them on his first missionary journey. Paul begins chapter 3 by asking the believers a series of questions. These questions are designed to drive home the fact that they were justified by faith in Christ as they experienced the Savior (verse 1), the Spirit (verses 2-4), and Signs (verse 5).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 6.15.23 - Genesis 15:1-6

Attend church? Sing worshipfully? Hear the sermon? Attend a small group? Read the Bible? Pray? Do you believe...? Do you truly believe that your life is changed because of your faith? Do you have the hope, the confident expectation, that the things you hear on Sunday morning are real and possible and world changing? You see, we can go through the motions with our faith and live a better life on the surface, but only when we let go

of this earthly story and let God's story dominate our life will the real change occur. *"Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness"*. The result of Abram's faith was that the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. In other words, in response to Abram's faith, the Lord declared that Abram was now righteous and justified in His sight. True faith in the Lord has consequences. Abram believed. What if he didn't. How does his story change? How does YOUR story change?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY - 6.16.23 - Psalm 32:1-2

Legend has it that Ponce de Leon explored near St. Augustine, FL in the 1500's, looking for the Fountain of Youth. If you drank from its waters, you would never grow old.

If you ever found such a place, could you keep it a secret? Wouldn't you want to tell family, friends, those around if not the whole world?

These two verses speak of a Fountain even more wonderful than the Fountain of Youth. They are a reflection of the blessedness that comes to one whose sins are forgiven. Admitting our sin before God can be difficult. It means acknowledging our failure and then repenting of what we have done, which can be even harder. But as the burden of guilt is lifted, and our transgressions are covered by the blood of Jesus, we experience a new life and one that will last forever in the presence of our Savior.

How can we not share the joy of what we've discovered?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



June 12th – June 16th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "Watch Your Step" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 6.18.23, "Bewitched" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Galatians 1:3-4

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** SUMMER QUARTER BEGINS *JUNE 4th*
LOCATION: B8-10 with Scott Naus
Explore the Bible - *Jeremiah and Lamentations*
LOCATION: B11 with Barry Wills
Masterwork - Beginning 6/4, a seven-week study, *The Good Life by Dr. Derwin L. Gray. Jesus came to earth on a mission of reconciliation. The invitation card is known as "The Beatitudes."*
LOCATION: B1-2 with Joel Day
Everything You Need - *Author David Jeremiah uses 2 Peter 1:3-11 to show you the path to spiritual and personal transformation.*

"For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again."
~ Proverbs 24:16

1. A _____ that you can _____ (vv 11-12)

When Peter stopped eating with Gentile believers, he was giving approval to the false idea that a Gentile needed to become a Jew in order to be a Christian.

Steps to a fall: F _____ – F _____ –
F _____

2. A _____ that your fall can _____
affect others (v 13)

Peter stopped eating with Gentile Christians in Antioch and others Jewish believers followed his example.

3. A _____ correction from _____ when you
fall (vv 14-21)

Paul uses the verb "*justified*" four times in verses 16 and 17. He uses the noun form one time in verse 21, translated by the word "*righteousness.*" Paul uses the word "*faith*" four times in this passage. It occurs three times in verse 16 and once in verse 20.

The moment you place your faith in Jesus to forgive your sin, God declares you justified—not guilty in His eyes (v 16).

When someone confronts you:

- L _____ (Proverbs 13:1)
- C _____ (1 Peter 2:2)
- A _____ (2 Peter 3:15)

No matter how many times you fall spiritually, get up and get going!

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
Break for summer.
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** DIVE DEEPER WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM"

Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth

July 16 - 20, 2023 - 6:00pm - 8:15pm
Ages 3 - through 6th Grade