

MONDAY 3.10.25 - Luke 17:3-4

The passage before us today deals with *forgiving others*. The topic for the week has been Spiritual Recovery.

How do these fit together?

Consider this. In The Lord's Prayer, that model of prayer that Jesus gave His disciples, there is an intriguing request. "Forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us!*"

I know my sins against my Lord and Savior! You know yours, too! How do I want the abundant grace and mercy of God applied to me? What manner of forgiveness do I desperately desire from Him? Do I ***really want Him to forgive me as I forgive others?***

The correlation between spiritual recovery and forgiving others, I believe, lies here. As we search and know our hearts (Psalm 139), we become acutely aware of the forgiveness the God of the universe has given us. How can we ***not*** forgive others?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 3.11.25 - Ephesians 4:31-32

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.

In psychology they say there are two kinds of mental activity. First there is passive thinking, that is going about your business and not paying much attention to what you are thinking. The second is active thinking, that is when you are focused on the task before you. We spend much more time in passive thought than in active thought, however as Christians we need to be careful about this because if we are not controlling our thoughts Satan will. It is during times of passive thought that we often entertain the thoughts of bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander, and malice.

I want to encourage you to involve in active thinking and, with God's help, purpose to not permit evil thoughts to enter your mind, but to replace them with good and positive thoughts. Christ gave us a good exercise for doing this when He said, But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,".

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 3.12.25 - John 18:12-14; 19-24

Jesus was slandered and treated inhumanly by a religious and legal system bent on His destruction. Where others would cry "Mistrial," He demanded no appeal. Every step of His way to the cross, Jesus left behind an example of how to bear up under suffering unjustly imposed. The key to Christ's attitude was trust—not in the legal system or the religious institutions but in "Him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23).

Are you going through trials and persecutions right now? Have friends betrayed or deserted you? Are your enemies having a field day with your reputation? Are they spreading lies about you? If so, look to the Father. He sees. He knows. He judges righteously. Someday your case will be heard in heaven, and then you will be vindicated. As for now, take comfort in the fact that He cares and loves you and will not let this injustice go on forever.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 3.13.25 - 1 Kings 8:61

Today's scripture demonstrates that mixture required between us and God. It is God who has called us from our former life, put

a new heart in us and renews us each day with power to desire and obey Him. Yet, if we trust Him and believe that He has saved us and paid for our sins, it is our responsibility to turn from our wicked ways and obey His commands every day. Soloman, finishing his long prayer in this section, states by inspiration in verse 58, "that He may incline our hearts to Him..." yet our verse 61 claims we must 'be wholly true to the Lord, ... walking in His statues...". However it is joined, the Lord first loved us, then we love Him. He inclines us to obey and then we obey. Commitment is a strong word but then nothing the Lord does is weak but faithful to the end. We must be committed to the end as well.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 3.14.25 - Psalm 26:1-3

As I read through Psalm 26 my first thought is "Wow! That's a bold claim made by David, 'I have led a blameless life...trusted in the LORD without wavering'". However, I am wrong to think that David is boasting in himself in these verses. He is crying out to God for vindication. He is "reminding" God, and more importantly, himself, who is and how God loves him. When we face persecution and cry out to God for vindication, we should follow David's example. We should remind ourselves of who we are as children of God: saved by Jesus and covered by His righteousness. These reminders should encourage us to remain faithful in our walk with the Lord, and to continue to serve Him in those areas to which He has called us. We should remember His love is always before us, spurring us on in our commitment to Christ.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - begins March 2nd.
LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler- began March 2nd.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - 1,2 Peter & Jude - These books were written primarily to address suffering caused by persecution and to combat false teachings.
LOCATION: B11 - Dave Delcamp - began March 2nd.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE - part 1
All Signs Point to Jesus - The Gospel of John points to many signs that highlight who Jesus is, and as we look at these signs you will be drawn to a renewed awe and worship of Jesus Christ.
LOCATION: B1&2 - Chris Domenico - began March 2nd.
EVERYDAY EVANGELISM
Pursuing Hearts, Not Arguments - This six-week study will equip you with practical, effective ways to share the gospel. The way to do that is by engaging others with love, respect, and truth.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

WINTER E2 SMALL GROUPS

LLT EVENT- FEAST: APPETIZER COURSE: Ladies, join us March 20th at 6:00pm in the FAC for the first course of FEAST! Appetizers prepared by Dash Meal Solutions. Guest speaker: Sarah Dayton. Cost: \$20. Please pick up your book from the Information Table. Read Ch.1-4 prior to attending.

REVELATION - WOMENS STUDY: Join us for a 10-week Women's Bible Study following Jen Wilkin's book, *"Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom"*. In this study you will become confident, assured, and inspired by the teachings in Revelation. Thursday Mornings at 9:00am in room B8-10 Started February 20th.

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 18:15-18, 25-27 ***From Regret To Restoration***

John 18 records Peter's denial of Christ. It's important to note that Peter's fall was gradual. No one falls suddenly. That is to say, backsliding is a process, and it takes place in stages—a step at a time—gradually.

There are four steps downward that led to Peter's denial of Jesus.

1. P _____ (John 13:37-38)
2. P _____ (John 18:10)
3. P _____ (John 18:15; Matt. 26:58)
4. P _____ (John 18:15-18, 25-27)

There are three steps upward that led to Peter's restoration.

3. R _____ (Mark 16:7; 1 Cor. 15:5)
2. R _____ (John 18:27)
1. R _____ (John 18:27; Matt. 26:74)

How about you? Are you out of step with the Lord today? If so, take three steps back to Him.

1. R _____ (Rev. 2:4a)
2. R _____ (Rev. 2:4b)
3. R _____ (Rev. 2:4c)

Be glad, knowing that the Lord has restored you to fellowship and service for Him. God will direct you in the future if you let Him forgive the regrets of your past.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 10 – March 14

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 from, March 9th, "From Regret to Restoration", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 16th, "Kangaroo Court", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12