

**PRAYING LIKE JESUS (Part 6)**  
**Matthew 18:15-17, 21-35**

**I. FORGIVE US**

- A. *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Mt. 6:14-15).*
- B. Forgiveness Is Foundational.
  - 1. Forgiveness is not optional!
  - 2. Of all the petitions Jesus gives us in this prayer, he only emphasizes one.
  - 3. God does not forgive us on an exchange basis. Our forgiveness of others is a condition of our ability to receive God’s forgiveness.
- C. Gratitude and Grace.
  - 1. Nothing hurts God more than ingratitude.
  - 2. When we live without gratitude, it is impossible to act with grace.
- D. Revenge or Reconciliation?
  - 1. Transform revenge fantasies into reconciliation fantasies.
  - 2. “Do I not destroy my enemy when I make him my friend?” (Abraham Lincoln)
  - 3. “I will not permit any man to narrow or degrade my soul by making me hate him.” (Booker T. Washington)

**II. LEAD US**

- A. Looking to the Future.
  - 1. What do you fear the most?
  - 2. We take this part of the Lord’s prayer less seriously than any other petition.
- B. Concentrate on Your Choices.
  - 1. Every day we are tempted. Every day we have a choice to make.
  - 2. We can choose between good and evil, between being true or false, between being brave or cowardly, between being generous or selfish.
  - 3. Look beyond the choices to the final destination of the road you travel.
  - 4. “We make our decisions and then our decisions turn around and make us.” (Frank W. Boreham)
- C. Temptation Begins as Thoughts.
  - 1. In the secret places of our minds we fantasize and act out our thoughts. We read or watch the wrong things, we live dangerously by placing ourselves in tempting situations, we keep the wrong company.
  - 2. “Our best friends and our worst enemies are our thoughts. A thought can do us more good than a doctor or a banker or a faithful friend. It can also do us more harm than a brick.” (Frank Crane)

**Prayer Concerns: Members** – Margaret Baker, Burney Biesel, Nancyathryn Crane, Dr. Gordon Freeman, **Gay Irvin, James Lee, Fay McDowell, Sylvia Palmer ... Friends** – Bobby Borden, Pat Bryan, Doyle Davis, Bill Dean, Tina Gatlin, Jere Gifford, Joanna Grathwell, Kathy Greer, **Branden Hurst, Jackson Ingram, Rusty Jackson, Dillon LaRue, Ron McMillan, Macy Morgan, Betty Murray, Linda Petrie, Violet Stout, Mike Thompson, Steven Wachtler, Owen Walker, Janet Willis ...**

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, you are the Lord God Almighty. Forgive us our debts, our sins, our trespasses against you and others. Forgive our ignorance, which makes us argue about little things and forget the big things. We have sinned and done that which we should not have done, we have trespassed and gone too far in our thoughts and actions, we have become indebted to you and others, and we need forgiveness.

For the sake of your Son, forgive us for what we have done wrong and failed to do right. Forgive us for blundering beyond the boundaries. We confess that we are not all that we should be, or all that we sometimes think we are, or all that others believe us to be. We are human, and in that humanity of ours we need your forgiveness.

Give us grace, Father, to forgive others, not seven times but seventy times seven. Help us to realize that as there is no limit to your forgiveness of us there should be no limit to our forgiveness of others.

Give us the grace that knowing ourselves forgiven, really forgiven, we may be able to overcome our grudges, anger, bitterness and resentment and be willing to forgive – from our heart and not just our head. May our forgiveness be more than an outward sign, but an inward commitment to forget.

When you forgive, Father, you wipe out the sin as if it never happened. You never mention it again. You never hold it over our heads. It is forgotten. Help us to forgive in the same way. This we ask in Jesus' name, who forgave us from the cross and through the cross, and who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to be sung): **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### MATTHEW 18:15-17, 21-35

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector...”

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### In the Sanctuary:

September 2	<i>Gideon Speaker</i>	
September 9	<i>What's Worth Wanting?</i>	Luke 12:13-21

#### On the Radio (1450 AM):

September 2	<i>Tell Me Where It Hurts</i>	James 5:13-20
September 9	<i>Do You Want the Truth?</i>	John 16:7-15