

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“The Gift of Forgiveness”

“Can We Talk About Christmas” – Pt. 2

Matthew 18:21-35 & Selected

Christmas means God’s forgiveness is available!

Because of God’s Gift of Forgiveness...

I. I must never forget how much I’ve been forgiven!

“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.” Vs. 26-27

“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

II. I must refuse to fill my heart with unforgiveness!

“But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’” Vs. 28

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32

III. I must relinquish my right to get even!

“So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.” Vs. 29-30

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”

Romans 12:19

IV. I must be prepared to forgive over and over and over!

“Then Peter came up and said to him, ‘Lord, how often will 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-seven times.’”

Vs. 21-22

V. I must redeem my future from my scarred past!

“So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” Vs. 35

“For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” James 2:13