



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony will be speaking to us today from
Joshua 6:1-7

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to the Celebration!



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, August 23, 2015

Vol. 8, Issue 46

Pastoral Ponderings

Forgiving Others Their Trespasses

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6: 14-15)

"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 times seven.'" (Matthew 18: 21-22)

Benjamin Franklin stated, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." I would add this: it is certain that, in life, you will be hurt physically, emotionally or financially by someone you love, requiring you to offer forgiveness. We have all been hurt by people we would never expect to hurt us. Often it's a friend or family member. Sometimes the offense is so horrendous that it rocks us to our inner core being and may even cause a lifetime of pain such as in the case of incest or physical abuse. In my own family, my mother was raised by a father that was an alcoholic. He was a hard-working man that provided for his family financially but didn't offer any emotional support. As a result my mom grew up without any real male role model in her life. When he died there wasn't any significant emotional ties or sadness at his death, just a lifetime of dealing with an alcoholic father, which certainly has had an ongoing affect even to this day. By God's grace both my parents came out of difficult childhood situations to be amazing people and I couldn't be more fortunate to have the parents I have.

I am not proud to admit it, but one way that I often want to deal with a person who has injured me personally or my reputation, is to retaliate. If they said something that was hurtful, I want to get even by saying something that is equally as painful back. I can just hear the childhood saying "sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me". From an earthly perspective, it didn't really bring comfort then and it still doesn't help today.

Another earthly way I respond-- again I am being honest-- is to carry a grudge. A common phrase people use today after being hurt is "that person is dead to me." Have you ever gone out of your way to avoid an offender? Perhaps you see that person at Walmart and quickly change aisles, hoping to avoid them. Some people hold onto grudges for a lifetime, like the Hatfield's and the McCoy's or the Bears vs. Packers. Maybe somehow this year the Bears can pay back the Packers for the 55-14 massacre from last year.

Continued on next page...

Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-Time Visitor
- Returning Visitor

Name:

Date:

Email:

Phone:

How to access the sermon archives:

If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room. Your order will be available for pick-up at the video booth the following week.

Name:

Sermon Date:

Scripture Passage:

To download sermons for free, go to newlifechristiancommunity.org

