



FUSION

CHURCH OF MADISON

Sermon Guide for Tribes

July 2, 2023

Message Title: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ 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?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Points of Consideration:

What is the extent of God's forgiveness?

God forgives the:

1. **POOR** - v. 23-25, 27
 - a. God forgives the debt of those who know they cannot afford to pay.
2. **PITIFUL (PROSTRATE)** - v. 26-27; Luke 18:10-14
 - a. God forgives even to the lowest and most humble of people.
3. **PATIENT** - v. 28-35
 - a. God forgives those who are patient with those who wrong them, but judges those who are unforgiving.

Discussion Questions:

In Caleb's message, he pointed out that the debt owed by the unforgiving servant was far beyond anything he could repay in his lifetime, yet the master forgave him. Why is spiritual poverty a posture that is so necessary for a Christian to exemplify to be forgiven? How would our life compare to the unforgiving servant if he decided to try and repay that enormous debt?

In verse 26, Jesus describes the unforgiving servant as lying prostrate before the master while pleads with him. He is quite literally as low as he can be. How does this compare to the tax collector Jesus mentions in Luke 18? What should this teach us about how God honors humility (Matthew 18:27, Luke 18:14)? How should this reflect (or perhaps reorient!) our view of repentance in *one another* (think of Matt. 18:32-35 and Luke 18:9)?

If you are born again, simply spend some time reflecting on how God has been patient with you. Give testimony of the Lord's patience in your life.

Begin your time of discussion today by praying earnestly over the Sunday morning service!

You Turn Ministries

- Soccer league outreach
- Pray for nine pastor training schools, and over 200 students
- Pray for the over 80 orphans that You Turn currently supports

Church Plants!

- Hispanic Church Plant

- Be in prayer for Pastor Roberto and his family and for God to open doors amongst the Hispanic community in Morgan County.
- Pray for consistency from new families visiting the Bible study.

- Walton County Church Plant

Here is a prayer update from the planter of Church of Good Hope:

“Good afternoon, Prayer Partners:

First, let me say thank you for jumping into this process with us by partnering with our church plant in its greatest need: prayer.

God has already demonstrated His faithfulness in answering our prayers in so many ways. And, our church plant team recognizes that prayer is the key to what we hope will be a great start to our ministry in the Good Hope community.

As a brief “bring you up to speed” summary on our journey so far, here are a few basic details:

Vision - The Church of Good Hope will join God in His plan to transform lives with the Gospel.

Mission - We will do this by developing disciples who are equipped to share the Good News of Jesus and demonstrate the life He calls us to live in our homes, communities, and throughout the world.

Core Values - Love, Truth, Growth, Purpose, Mission

Affiliations - SBC, GBC, Stone Mountain Baptist Association

Pastor / Planter - Craig Story

Mailing Address - Church of Good Hope, PO Box 305, Good Hope, GA, 30641

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Incorporating - July 2023

Public Launch Date - 6pm on Sunday, Sept 17, 2023

We have a strong core team consisting primarily of young couples. We have been meeting in community groups twice a month for 7 months. Our team is being trained by Larry Black, the Church Plant Catalyst for the Stone Mountain Baptist Association. Craig Story has twelve years of full-time ministry experience at three churches in Gwinnett and Walton Counties. The last church he worked full-time at was as a co-pastor / co-planter of a church in Loganville that just celebrated 16 years of effective ministry. Craig currently works full-time as a Data Analyst in manufacturing and plans to be a bi-vocational pastor of the Church of Good Hope for three years (long enough to train up a pastor from within or identify a pastor from outside the church). Then, he plans to take 8-10 people into one of the nearby communities of Bostwick, Bishop, or North High Shoals and plant again.

Here are the top three prayer requests that our church is praying over for the month of July. Please share these with your leadership and congregation so we can all agree as we ask for God's guidance. I will update you on these three requests when I send our August requests, but feel free to contact me before then if you have questions.

1. A GATHERING PLACE FOR OUR WEEKLY SERVICES. We believe that God is already working to open the minds and hearts of the leadership of a church in Good Hope to allowing us to rent space from them on Sunday evenings. Their congregation has considerably declined in size over the last three years. Recently, God has begun to encourage them and challenge them to be involved in ministry in the community, but they don't use their building on Sunday evenings. The space would be ideal for a variety of reasons, and we are going to formally propose a rental agreement this month for our launch and weekly services. We're praying for a favorable response from their leadership.

2. A SECOND, FULLY-FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY GROUP TEAM TO BEGIN REGULAR MEETINGS IN JULY. Our community groups have been excellent times of discipleship and accountability. We have had as few as 7 people in one home and as many as 17 people in two homes on any given night. By the end of the month, we hope to have a second community group meeting regularly with a fully-staffed team consisting of host, guide, and assistant-guide. Going into August, we'd like to have 20 people meeting regularly in community groups.

3. EIGHT GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS INITIATED BY OUR CORE TEAM DURING JULY. At the heart of our church is our desire to train people to be able to comfortably share their story and God's story with people they interact with on a regular basis. We're praying for a couple of meaningful gospel conversations each week that are initiated by the members of our core team.

Thank you again for committing yourselves to be Prayer Partners for the Church of Good Hope. We are excited to share how God answers these prayers in the weeks ahead.

Craig Story

Pastor / Planter

Church of Good Hope

Colossians 1:3-6"

Life Community Church, Weymouth, MA

We are offering a missions opportunity to work with our partners at Life Community Church in Boston this summer! We will be working with them during Mobilize 2023, which is July 17-23. It is going to be around \$1200, depending on plane ticket cost. This will include all meals from dinner on Monday

through breakfast on Sunday, except for Friday. For more details visit the registration page found on church center or through the link that's been posted on social media as well as on the event in the church calendar. Registration will be closed on April 1st! Strongly consider this great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus! If you have any questions, please see Ben Doomy!

- Visit the link below for a ministry partner update from Noah Madden and Life Community!

<https://youtu.be/8Gah-cMg-z8>

- A permanent church building to own.
- "Dots on the Map" for future plants
- Continued relationship with Seach Elementary School in Weymouth, MA - Next steps for families who connected with LCC at the Fall Fun Fest
- Office Space for staff

- Follow the link below for the most recent LLC newsletter!

<https://youtu.be/8Gah-cMg-z8>

FCA

- Update from Lake Oconee FCA:

We were able to hire Cameron Griffin as a full-time area rep for Putnam & Taliaferro Counties. Please pray for him and he works to get fully funded and begins his ministry.

Please pray as we shift into Camp Season. I'll be serving at Captains Camp at Reinhardt University. Traci will be serving at Leadership Camp in St Simons. We will also be attending/serving at Softball Camp in Columbus, at Football Camp at Reinhardt, and Family Camp at Epworth By the Sea. We also have wrestlers from Morgan attending camp at Emmanuel College & the boys basketball team at Putnam Co attending FCA Camp at Johnson University in Knoxville, TN.

FCA hosted its 2nd annual "Daughters of the King" tournament, in which 2-time national champion softball player, Jana Johns, shared the Gospel to over a hundred players, coaches, and parents! Pray for the continued impact of this event on all of those who attended.

We can't thank God enough for all that He has done and will continue to do through our ministry. If you'd like to get plugged in, please reach out.

Timothy Initiative

Update on Turkana region in Kenya:

"This is the situation in Turkana region Kenya. Have your family and the church pray, remember Turkana church. People are facing a tough time because of drought which has existed for a long period. People are

lacking food and clean water. Diseases like malaria, typhoid, and tuberculosis are affecting people. We lost eight people because they lack food to eat.” – from Pastor Eloilo

- The East African team has been praying fervently for their field leaders and their families; many of them are experiencing significant health issues and are in need of prayer for both healing and financial provision.

- Pray specifically for Pastor Simon Eloilo, a key leader in the Turkana mission work. Pastor Simon’s wife and daughters have been battling health problems for over 3 months now. His wife, Oriba Kemunto, is currently in need of a third eye surgery, but the family lacks funds and is praying for God to provide a way for them.

- For both the staff and field leaders, prayer has been requested for grace and motivation to continue in service.

- Pray for these pastors as they minister in often desolate, impoverished places with limited resources and cultural opposition.

- The cost of planting a church through TTI is \$400; consider how your tribe may impact believers across the globe by planting a church through TTI!

Nursing Home Ministry

- Daniel and Karrah Howell have recently spearheaded an effort to bless our local nursing home community. Specifically, we as a church are collecting items for which residents regularly ask. Below is a list that designates which items each tribe is collecting, and we would greatly appreciate your help!

Young Adult Tribe-little Knick-knacks, Yarn

Young Married Tribe-Adult coloring books, Cotton balls

Married & Singles Tribe-Nail polish remover, Men’s aftershave.

Married(no childcare) Tribe-Devotional Books

Empty Nesters Tribe-Body Spray/Perfume

6th-12th grade Boys Tribe-Can soda/store brand(orange, grape, ginger ale) 6th-12th grade Girls

Tribe-Little Debbie snacks/crackers/cookies

Married w/kids(McBay)- Bodywash, Emery boards, Deodorant, Bangle bracelets

Encore Senior Adults-gloves, stocking caps

Married Tribe (Broach)- Turbins, Bandanas, scarves

Please see Daniel or Karrah if you have any questions.