

### **True Forgiveness; Luke 11:1~11**

1. One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
2. He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.
3. Give us each day our daily bread.
4. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' "
5. Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
6. because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'
7. "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'
8. I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.
9. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
10. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
11. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

Today, I would like to share with you about forgiveness. In today's Bible passage, it is said that it is as if we have forgiven other people's sins.

### **1. Love and hate.**

We easily come across the word enmity. Enmity and hate seems like similar words with similar meanings, but they are different. Enmity means aversion and does sometime serious damage to others without reason. Enmity of a particular race or religion, even if it has nothing to do with anyone else, is called aversion. It is beyond hate.

Then “What is Hate?” Hate is mostly a result of love being perverted. But the opposite of love is not hate. The opposite of love is indifference or lack of interest. It's because hate also happens when there was interest and love. And that love turns into hate.

Let's look at another meaning. It is the word jealousy. Who is jealous? The answer is the Lover and the people who love are jealous. Jealousy is not hate. For example, people who love as much as they are jealous. That's why the Bible says that God is a jealous God. God is jealous because God loves us so much.

One of the scariest things in the world is indifference. Everyone wants to be loved. This is a human nature, whether we agree or not, because it is the truth, and that will never change. Humans have a space called love in human essence. The space is called love, and it is to be filled with true love.

Now let us ask ourselves, “Is it really easy to love your neighbor?” Furthermore, the Bible tells us to love your neighbor as yourselves. The phrase “love your neighbor” is not an easy story. It's not an easy task for me. I have pondered over these things. How can you love

your neighbor? Honestly, I can't possibly do it on my own. But one day I discovered that it was possible to love one's neighbor. When was it? It was when I was full of God's grace.

Even if I don't want to love others, but God's love flows out automatically. The essence of God is love, the state of being wet with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, that is, the state of being filled with God's grace.

We cannot love our neighbor with our own love. Maybe temporarily, but someday we will easily tire of it. So that's why we need God's love and grace. That's only way we can love our neighbor. When God's grace comes upon us, we will love others even if we do not want to love, because God is love.

## **2. Holy wave of God & Living stream**

We have to seek God's mercy and grace. I pray that we stay in that grace and that grace flows through us into the world. When water is stagnant, it will rust or can become bitter. Water must flow. It is called fresh water. I pray that God's grace will flow through you and me into the world like this fresh water. It is called holy wave of God.

When Jesus stood up with Barabbas, and Pilatus ask to Israel ***"Who will be sets free?"*** Then Israel shouts ***"Sets free Barabbas."*** But Jesus is silent. Why? Because Jesus is fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 61 ***"Release from darkness for the prisoners."*** Jesus shows us truly release sinner and exchange his life for sinners. That's why Barabbas had been set free. Barabbas is symbol of sinners and a symbol of us. That's true forgiveness, and we can do true forgiveness when we belong into real Christ's heart and love. When we melt into God's love, then loving others will happen.

### **3. Do not false swear**

Many Christian had lied. The lie that Christians tell the most is “I will pray for you.” and mostly they did not pray. “I will pray for you” is not a courtesy. The prayer has a power with Jesus’ healing and victory. And when we pray in Jesus’ name, our prayer will shake God’s throne and there will be change and shaking all our problems. That’s prayer’s power and that’s the power of Christ’ love. If you have said that, please take time to pray for that person at least once.

Also, the most common mistake Christians make is not asking for forgiveness even when they do wrong to others. Jesus' disciples question to Jesus.

They said, “*Jesus! How many times do I have to forgive my brother,*” *Jesus said to forgive them even 490 times a day.* We are all known about this. But, we have to look closely at the Bible; there is a word, **“If your brother or sister asks you for forgiveness.”** That is key point.

If we don't ask for forgiveness, how do we forgive? It is not forgiveness, it's just letting it go. Letting it go and forgiveness is a totally different matter. For another verse says that if you remember your sin to your brother or sister for forgiveness, then go ask your brother or sister forgiveness first before you offering your gift to God.

Seeking forgiveness is true courage and honesty before God. We use these words as many times in our daily life. That word is **“What If”**. This word unsettles us with uncertainty. Our word now should be changed like this. **“God will do”** Don’t hesitate to ask forgiveness to your brother and sister in Christ.

## Conclusion

I would like to finish my speech. We have to check ourselves. In the era of Roman rule, the cross was symbol of the sinners. On that cross, Jesus was hanged and killed. And the symbol of the cross of Christ was transformed into hope. The cross of Christ has become a symbol of salvation, restoration, and hope for sinners. This is the event of the cross of Christ and the message it gives us today. The cross of Christ is the transformation from sin and death to salvation and resurrection. The crucifixion of Christ is a precious gift and privilege given to us today.

We need to check our selves. Are we are soaked with God's grace or grace seldom, or it perfectly dried and no grace comes out no matter how much we squeeze. It is look like a perfectly dry sponge in a yard on a hot summer day. That sponge does not have water flow out no matter how much you squeeze it. The fully soaked sponges will have water flow even if we just hold it. The water looks like God's grace and love.

I hope the waves of God's grace flow through you and me today around us, in Newberg, and throughout the world. God called us a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people owned by God. This is our anointing and God's declaration to us. Our crookedness and wickedness must be melted by God's love and grace. That grace and love cannot purchase any treasure in the world. It is free in the name of Jesus. That is only through Jesus and his precious blood.

The Bible tells us: *“Let this mind be in you, which is the mind of Christ Jesus.”* Do not try to force ourselves for forgiveness to other. There will be no heart and it looks like hypocrisy. That will be hypocrisy and our attitude just looks forgiving and inside heart is killing them

multiple times. We have to honest and open our heart before God's presence. There is no wrapping or no hiding ourselves. God is searching and listening to our silence and crying.

True forgiveness is never remembering another person's mistakes or fault again. It is just as Jesus Christ does not remember our sins when we repent. In our heavenly book of life, our lives are not written with ink, it is graven with the blood of Jesus Christ. What is engraved cannot be erased. When we repent, the inscribed part of our sin will disappear.

We have to ourselves be soaked and deep into God's grace first. Let our life cup drain and be made empty before God's presence. Then God will fill up His love and grace and will over flow in our life cup. When we have the heart and love of Christ, we can truly forgive and seek forgiveness too.