

8/18/24

Sermon – Parables – The Debtor

Scripture – Mathew 18:21-35, Mathew 6

Main Message – Parables are a strong image of what we need to consider about ourselves.

Consider the world and the times we live. It certainly seems overly complicated, divisive, immoral, oppressive, expensive, and perhaps to some fruitless. People are quick to judge and hopelessly unforgiving it seems. Jesus taught those with eyes to see and ears to hear through parables. We have talked often about the reasons he did that. One of the reasons is for us to learn and nothing is as good as an image to work with. Smart, right-minded people would like to see the world “fixed.” Evil, Twisted and unstable people see no value in living or purpose other than existing for their own benefit. I am not talking about them today. The problem on how to fix the world unfortunately always comes down to people’s opinions and usually with the creator of the universe as an integral part. Why are some people so passionate about politics at every level. They want to find the individual that is going to fix it so they don’t have to. To fix the world, we must fix our own internal brokenness first. I have been on a mission my whole Christian life in fixing my own failures and shortcomings and the more I do that, the more I am able to withstand the world in which we live with peace in my heart. I don’t look outside of myself for the fix. I must look inward. One of those components is vital to a Christian’s faith. It is the aspect and importance of forgiveness.

Read Mathew 18

When the requirement is perfection before God, it is easy to see that we all fall short. Our Father in heaven has forgiven us sins beyond our count. Why then should we be unforgiving towards others? Why? We have disappointed, slandered, and disbelieved God over and over again. We lie, cheat, and steal from one another. You can’t hide the truth from God. You, and I may try to be good, but God’s word says that all our good works are filthy rags, so lets be clear. We All SIN. Another point to make here is that we do not have the power to forgive sins. We can forgive those who sin against us. Notice the outcome at the end of the parable that those who are unforgiving will be judged by God who is the only righteous judge and who truly understands our hearts perfectly. Do not stand before him UNPROTECTED by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Its simple. Forgive one another. Its vital if you want to have access to the Kingdom of Heaven as it will be when our Lord and savior returns.

Recite the **Lord’s Prayer** and include Mathew 6:14 and 15.