

Sermon Outline

“Humbly Forgiving One Another” Matthew 18:21-35

- I.** The progression in Chapter 18
 - A.** Be humble toward one another – vv. 1-5
 - B.** Avoid causing others to stumble vv. 6-9
 - C.** Rescue one another when your brother wanders vv. 10-14
 - D.** Restore one another from sinful situations vv. 15-20
 - E.** Forgive one another when wronged vv. 21-35
 - Note:** D & E reflect a connection set forth in Lev 19:17-18: “Rebuke, but do not hold a grudge.”
- II.** Concerning grudges vv. 21-22
 - A.** Peter raises a question: “Forgive 7 times?” (*cf.* Gen 4:15)
 - 1. We should seek to bring him back (*cf.* v. 15)
 - 2. But what about his offence *against me?* v. 21
 - B.** Jesus answers: “Not 7, but 77.” (*cf.* Gen 4:24)
 - 1. Repeated, full forgiveness must be the standard
 - 2. Failure to forgive is failure to mirror God’s image (*cf.* Mt 5:48)
 - 3. Forgiveness must characterize the church (*cf.* Mt 6:14-15)
- III.** Jesus gives an illustrating parable in three scenes vv. 23-34
 - A.** Scene 1 – The king offers forgiveness
 - 1. The situation vv. 23-25
 - 2. The statement/request v. 26
 - 3. The response v. 27
 - B.** Scene 2 – The servant refuses forgiveness
 - 1. The situation v. 28
 - 2. The statement/request v. 29
 - 3. The response v. 30
 - C.** Scene 3 – the king revokes forgiveness (faith w/o works is dead)
 - 1. The situation v. 31
 - 2. The statement vv. 32-33
 - 3. The response v. 34
- IV.** Jesus states the conclusion of the matter v. 35 (*cf.* v. 33)
Forgiveness, including mutual forgiveness among members of Christ’s church, is central to the Christian faith and life.
See Mt 6:12, 14-15; I John 1:5-7.
Every one of you should forgive his brother!