

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (v35)

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven & preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, & lead us toward all that gives life & salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go & point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; & if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile & a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between the Old Testament lesson & the Gospel? How about between the *Romans* lesson & the Gospel? Think in terms of imagery, themes, & models, not only vocabulary & grammar. See *Matthew 16:17-19; John 20:19-23*
2. Review these instances of Gentiles & tax collectors in St. Matthew’s gospel. What does this show us about v17? How are these people objects of scorn & exclusion or subjects of (re-)evangelization & outreach (as in “outside the group fellowship”)? See *Matthew 8:5-13, 28-34; 9:9-13, 27-31 (cf. Mark 10:46-56), 11:18-19, 12:15-21, 15:21-28, 21:28-32 (also Luke 3:7, 12-14, 17:11-18)*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review the 10 Commandments & their explanation in the Small Catechism several times this week. Pray for God to enlighten you on each one. Who do you need to forgive? How long have you carried this unforgiveness? What have you gained from it? SC available <bookofconcord.org>
4. Now, whose forgiveness do you need? In other words, to whom do you owe an apology & amends? Review the SC: Office of the Keys/Confession. Hint: it’s highly unlikely you have no answer to either question- keep praying. See *Psalm 51; Matthew 5:23-26*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Rightly or wrongly, many people perceive the Church as a place quick to judge & run off, not much different from TV shows Survivor or Bachelor/Bachelorette, merely dressed up in Bible verse. Consider your own history of disagreements & side-taking, despising & passive-aggressiveness. How can you repent of your divisiveness & help others do the same?
6. In our First Steps of Faith seminar we discuss this passage in connection with the congregational membership promise to “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word & deed.” How would using *Matthew 18:15-20* to resolve all your conflicts & differences help your neighbors at home & work? See *Matthew 5:1-12, 28-48*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

14th Sunday after Pentecost

09.06.20

Series: Church Is...

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Forgiving (pt. 1)

*Wherever two or three are gathered, you can vote?
No, you can forgive!*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (v18)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19)**

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (v35)

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven & preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, & lead us toward all that gives life & salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go & point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; & if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile & a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between the Old Testament lesson & the Gospel? How about between the *Romans* lesson & the Gospel? Think in terms of imagery, themes, & models, not only vocabulary & grammar. See *Matthew 16:17-19; John 20:19-23*
2. Review these instances of Gentiles & tax collectors in St. Matthew's gospel. What does this show us about v17? How are these people objects of scorn & exclusion or subjects of (re-)evangelization & outreach (as in “outside the group fellowship”)? See *Matthew 8:5-13, 28-34; 9:9-13, 27-31 (cf. Mark 10:46-56), 11:18-19, 12:15-21, 15:21-28, 21:28-32 (also Luke 3:7, 12-14, 17:11-18)*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review the 10 Commandments & their explanation in the Small Catechism several times this week. Pray for God to enlighten you on each one. Who do you need to forgive? How long have you carried this unforgiveness? What have you gained from it?
SC available <bookofconcord.org>
4. Now, whose forgiveness do you need? In other words, to whom do you owe an apology & amends? Review the SC: Office of the Keys/Confession. Hint: it's highly unlikely you have no answer to either question- keep praying. See *Psalm 51; Matthew 5:23-26*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Rightly or wrongly, many people perceive the Church as a place quick to judge & run off, not much different from TV shows Survivor or Bachelor/Bachelorette, merely dressed up in Bible verse. Consider your own history of disagreements & side-taking, despising & passive-aggressiveness. How can you repent of your divisiveness & help others do the same?
6. In our First Steps of Faith seminar we discuss this passage in connection with the congregational membership promise to “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word & deed.” How would using *Matthew 18:15-20* to resolve all your conflicts & differences help your neighbors at home & work? See *Matthew 5:1-12, 28-48*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgics license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

14th Sunday after Pentecost

09.06.20

Series: Church Is...

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Forgiving (pt. 1)

*Wherever two or three are gathered, you can vote?
No, you can forgive!*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (v18)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19)**

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2020; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.