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As God Forgave Us

Chapter

Matthew 18:21–35

Today's Lesson:



1. To understand that the Lord has loved and forgiven us unconditionally.

2. To understand that we can also forgive others when we think about the love of the Lord.

Open Your Heart

This man's name is Edwin Stanton.



Edwin Stanton served Abraham Lincoln as the Secretary of War during the president's administration. He was one of the men who volunteered to investigate the assassination of president Lincoln when the event occurred. During Lincoln's memorial, Stanton cried out saying,

"He was a historical figure. He had the power to change people. He was the greatest leader of this generation."

However, Stanton was a man who used to mock and insult Lincoln when Lincoln was a lawyer. He mocked and disrespected Lincoln whenever he had the chance to do so. He even said this about Lincoln.

"Everyone! We do not have to go to Africa to see gorillas. The original gorilla known as Lincoln is in Springfield, Illinois."

What changed Stanton? Let's find out what changed him.



Understanding Today's Lesson

Matthew 18 tells us a story about a servant who owed 10,000 talents. 1 talent was worth 6,000 denarii, and 1 denarius was worth a worker's daily wage. For example, if the daily wage was 100 dollars, then 1 talent was 600,000 dollars. Therefore, the value of 10,000 talents is beyond our imagination, and it is an impossible amount for a servant to repay. Surprisingly, the king was moved with compassion and released and forgave the servant from his debt. However, when that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, he laid hands on him and took him by the throat. Moreover, he went and even threw him into prison. When the king heard about what his servant had done, he was so full of rage that he brought the servant back, rebuked him, and delivered him to the torturers until he could pay all that was due to him.

Jesus gave this parable when Peter asked about forgiveness. The servant who owed 10,000 talents represents us who are sinners before God. This parable tells us that we cannot pay the wages of sin with our own strength. God had pity on us and forgave us of all our sins with the blood of Jesus. Likewise, as born-again Christians who have been forgiven of our sins, we also should forgive those who commit sin against us. If we are not able to forgive even the trivial sins that are worth 1/600,000 of the sins that we have received forgiveness for, then how would that make God feel? Jesus said to forgive your brother up to seventy times seven, meaning that you must continually forgive those who have sin against you. We must not only forgive our neighbors according to His Word, but we must also bless and evangelize to them so that they may believe in the gospel and go to Heaven.

Notes:



Memorizing Bible Verses

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

(Matthew 18:21~22)



Meditate

On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Psalms 103:8–14)

(Matthew 5:44–48)

(2 Corinthians 2:7–10)



Changing

Directions

Read Romans 12:17–21 and answer the following questions.

1. God says to "Repay no one evil for evil" (verse 17). What do you think this verse means?

2. In this world, many people say that it is okay for someone who has been treated unfairly to get revenge. What does the Bible say about this? (verses 18–19)

3. We may think that if we do not avenge ourselves, the wicked will continue to commit sins and cause us suffering. However, what does the Bible say about this? (verses 19)

4. What does the Bible say in terms of how to overcome the enemy (verses 20–21)?

5. Do I agree with the Word above?



Applying

The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

To Live According to the Word

Let us pray to be able to forgive those who have sinned against us, just as God has forgiven us. Let us forgive them in our hearts from now on.



Our Story

Real Mom~



There is a beautiful baby. He looks like an angel, and whenever he smiles, he is so very beautiful.

When the baby is with many women, you can't really tell who the real mom is.



However...

Once the baby poops in his diaper, you can tell who the real mom of the baby is because only she will reach out to the baby to change his diaper.



Even a person with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) will change her own baby's diaper. She does not consider it dirty because she knows how uncomfortable the baby must be. It is love that allows the mother to overlook the filth of the diaper, and it is love that causes the mother to have concern about how uncomfortable her baby must feel in that diaper. The fact that God will be with us through our sufferings and hardships shows His love towards us.

Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! (Psalms 68:19)

Kim Phuc Forgives John Plummer

On June 8th, 1972 during the Vietnam War, U.S. jets dropped Napalm bombs in the village of Trang Bang near Saigon, Vietnam. Around 12 am the night before, Viet Cong took over Trang Bang, which started a battle between Viet Cong and the Vietnamese soldiers. The Vietnamese soldiers started shooting the Warhammers in the village, but Viet Cong was still standing. As the battle got longer, around 4 pm, the Vietnamese soldiers decided to bomb the village and ask the United States for help.

The U.S. started bombing the village using the attack aircraft Skyraider, and the village caught on fire. Everything in a 30-meter radius was consumed by the fire, which was as hot as 5,400 Fahrenheit, and the village was full of dark smoke and fire. Many people died, and the peaceful village became a lake of fire. At that moment, A camera captured a girl running away naked with a third degree burn all over her body. Her name was Phan Ti Kim Phuc (b. 1963), and she was nine years old. She got a third degree burn below her face. She lost her two cousins and two younger siblings from the bombings, and she took off her clothes because it had caught on fire and started running while crying. With the help of Nick Ut, a reporter, she was taken to the Korei Hospital in Southern Vietnam, and she survived after 17 skin graft surgeries.

Nick Ut, who was a reporter for AP, took the picture of Kim Phuc, who was running naked from the Napalm bombs. He received a Pulitzer Prize for this picture. It is titled The Terror of War, and was taken in 1973.



Meanwhile, this picture caused much suffering and pain for a man named John Plummer (b. 1947), who was living in Virginia, U.S at the time. This picture caused Plummer suffering because he was the pilot that dropped the Napalm bombs in Vietnam. For a long time, he lived with pain and suffering in his conscience. If possible, he wanted to meet Kim Phuc and apologize to her, but back then, the diplomatic relationship between the U.S. and Vietnam was not well-developed. Therefore, he could not go to Vietnam. Even if he could have gone to Vietnam, he would not have known where to find her.

Plummer's friends told him that it was not his fault that people got hurt, as the command center was the one who failed to do their best to evacuate all the civilians in the village. However, this sentiment did not bring peace to Plummer's heart. He started to rely on alcohol, and because of his problems with alcohol, his marriage came to an end. It was his second wife who helped comfort Plummer. She even helped Plummer begin to study Theology. Later, he became the pastor of the Bethany United Methodist Church in Virginia.

On the last Monday of May in 1996, on Memorial Day, John Plummer met Kim Phuc at the Vietnam War Veteran Memorial. Kim Phuc participated in the memorial to give a wreath, and John participated with the hope to move on from his painful memory. In her speech, Kim Phuc said that she was free of her old pain, even though the pain of her burns was still there. She continued by saying the following:

"One thing we have to remember is that even though the picture does not show it, there were many people dying behind me. People lost their legs and arms, and there were corpses on the ground...but they were not captured on the camera." Kim Phuc emphasized that there must be united efforts for peace, and finished her speech by saying the following:

"I forgive those who bombed the village."

There was a loud round of applause. After the speech, John Plummer walked toward the podium and met Kim Phuc as she was walking down the podium with police escorts. John revealed to her that he was the pilot who bombed the village 24 years ago, and they had a short 2 minute conversation. As Plummer kept repeating his apologies, Kim Phuc hugged him and told him that it was okay. She had forgiven him. That night, the two of them met again in a hotel, and John heard Kim's forgiveness again, and two of them gave a prayer of thanksgiving to Christ.

After this event, John confessed that he still did not understand how a 2 minute conversation could erase 24 years of his nightmares completely. The forgiveness he had received was not from what he could have done himself, but rather was a gift. It was miraculous.

How could Kim Phuc forgive John, who left an unforgettable scar on her and her family? She says it was because she became a Christian after the Vietnam War. Because of Christ, who forgave her, she could forgive Plummer.

Currently, Kim Phuc, a mother of two, is working as a peace activist, UN Goodwill Ambassador, and child welfare activist. She travels around the world to give speeches to burned patients to give them hope. Kim Phuc named her son Huan, which means "hope for the coming days". John Plummer, who was forgiven by Phuc, is also working hard as a Methodist Church pastor for peace by preaching the forgiveness of the Cross.





Wednesday

Sermon

Date.

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Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



Sunday

Sermon

Date.

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Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage: