Resurrection Day – Luke 17:3-4

**3 So watch yourselves! “If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. 4 Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.”**

Resurrection Day is upon us once again. It is the time of year where we reflect on the forgiveness given to each of us for the multitudes of sins we commit. It is also a time when we see how much our savior gave up for us. Three days prior to this day over 2000 years ago a man was wrongly convicted by the governing officials at that time and sentenced to death on a crucifix, However 2000 years ago on the third day that same tomb He was laid in was completely empty. Jesus Christ rose from the grave after being in the earth for 3 days as He and countless prophets before His birth told us he would.

Forgiveness is something that all of us in this room have in common. We have forgiven others for things they have done to us and we have been forgiven of things. We stand here today a changed people than we once were, as Christians we have been saved by grace through faith. It is that grace part that really shakes the hardest of us to our core. Without grace there is no benefit to the cross. It was because of God’s grace that He chose sinners like you and I to stand here over 2000 years later proclaiming His Gospel of Peace through all nations.

A common saying in the world, and even we may have been guilty of using is “forgive but never forget”. I stand here today and say Christ showed us what true forgiveness is, it is forgetting, as far as the east is from the west. Jesus Christ died and forgave each and every person their sins. All we have to do is believe. He tells everyone to forgive as He has forgiven, and He tells all of us to love continually without ceasing. The mark of a believer is our ability to love and forgive. It is those two principles that Christ sacrificed Himself for our behalf over two thousand years ago.

Remember this week to show loving kindness to all, show mercy and grace to all and to forgive all. These are not simple requests that God asks us to do, they are commands that He tells us we must do. As always keep in your Bibles, and continue to remember each and everyone of us in your prayers.