

Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Memorial

Charlotte Midweek 5/1/24

For Further Study

Section One:

Read **Matthew 6:7-14**

In this section of the sermon on the mount Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray. When he says, "on earth as it is in heaven," what do you think He means? After this, he states if we have a forgiving heart toward others then God will be forgiving toward us. Why would Jesus say this? How is this like in the parable of the merciful servant in **Matthew 18:21-35** (read this passage as well)?

Is there anyone that you are withholding forgiveness from? Why? Can you give an example of a time when you needed mercy or grace from a friend, and they gave it to you? How did that make you feel? In what ways did this impact your relationship?

For anyone you need to begin this process with start by praying today, for your heart to be aligned with God, and also pray for the other people involved.

Section Two:

As we are set apart by God, we treat people differently than animals and show respect and love for others. Often times, we find that worldly influences and our sinful nature impact our relationships and we sin against one another. We need justice and righteousness in our relationships. In this video we see how Biblical righteousness and justice play a part of our walk with God and others.

Watch the Bible project video on justice:

https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/justice/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_video

Read **Proverbs 31:8-9, Jeremiah 22:3, Psalm 146:7-9, Micah 6:8**

How do you participate in biblical justice? We must be mindful as the world's view of justice is often politicized and divided through people that do not have a biblical guided view of life.

How can biblical justice help in the healing process of broken relationships? How does it play a part of forgiveness and reconciliation?

How can I demonstrate righteousness in my relationships with other brothers and sisters? How can we as a church help others that may not have a voice? Pray for all our hearts as the world wants to politicize these concepts, we must be wise to align ourselves with the heart of Christ and not political ideologies or groups that often take advantage of people.

Section three:

Read **2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

How does Christ's love compel you? In what ways can we regard someone from a worldly point of view? How does this impact our friendships? How does this concept impact the church?

You have been reconciled to God (meditate on this for a little while).

Now we are to participate in this ministry of reconciliation. How do we do this in practical ways? Is there anyone you need to be reconciled with? If yes, then what should you do to help in this process? Take action today and reach out if you are able, it could be as simple as a phone call, cup of coffee or a meal.

Section four:

Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Exodus 13:3-16**

How is taking communion participating in Memorial? How are the Lord's supper and Passover similar? Why do we do this as a church? Why must we be careful in taking the Lord's supper (Continue reading verses **27-34** in the 2 Corinthians 11)

How is having a memorial for a loved one helpful in the healing process? Think about what is involved and why.

As a country we have set up dozens of national memorials, why is it good to do this? What benefits does this have on a people and what are the possible negative side effects of a physical memorial? How do we do this in our lives? How can we do this to help us overcome hurt as a church?

Pray about this and prepare your heart. We want our memorial to be a celebration of repentance and transformation as we continue healing in our relationships.

Section Five:

How can these concepts of forgiveness, reconciliation and memorial go together? How have you taken part in each of these concepts in your life?

Read **Ephesians 1:1-23**

What sticks out to you in this passage? Can you find forgiveness, reconciliation, and memorial in this passage? God has done amazing things in your life to welcome you into his family, how can you practice this with your friends that are not followers of Christ? In what ways can you participate in this ministry of reconciliation? Pray, be intentional and let bus together live out God's word.

May we celebrate memorial as we live the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ in our lives.