



ALL SAINTS
PRESBYTERIAN

Sermon Discussion Guide for All Saints Small Groups

“Forgiveness”

Rev. Greg Grooms

Sermon Date: October 22, 2017

INTRO Question

Greg quoted Ephesians 5:32 at the introduction to his homily, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.” You have already been forgiven. Are you kind, tenderhearted and forgiving? How could mediating upon your status as forgiven inform the way you interact with those around you?

Background:

In our sermon series revisiting the Spiritual Formation practices, we have been interacting with ways we as Christians are to be marked as the body of Christ, known and recognized as His children. This Sunday, Greg focused on forgiveness. The passage in Luke highlights our struggle to forgive. Without forgiveness, we are weighed down by sin, in an endless cycle of burden. Greg explained what forgiveness is not: it’s not excusing; it’s not denying the seriousness of a wrong; it does not mean we’ve stopped hurting or that we’ve forgot; it’s not a rebuke or an indication of renewed trust, and it’s not compensation for a wrong. Thus, we are to forgive in our hurt, that which we can’t forget and those who we don’t trust.

Forgiveness then is a choice and a commitment. A choice not to speak of it to the wrong-doer, to others or to ourselves. It’s a commitment to be reconciled again and again. Greg quoted Corrie Ten Boom’s prayer to forgive saying, “Jesus help me. I can lift my hand, you supply the feeling.” It is not upon our forgiveness or goodness that the world’s healing hinges; by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit graciously given to us, we are able to act in faith and forgive as we’ve already been forgiven.

Read the sermon Scripture text aloud (see below).

Discuss:

- 1.) vv. 3-4 Where is the gospel at work in our charge to forgive and be reconciled again and again?
- 2.) Greg said our forgiveness is tied to the forgiveness of others. What do you think this means?
- 3.) The passage from Ephesians 4 and 5 is both an exhortation full of specifics and a picture of the potential beauty of the Church. In which of these areas could you better reflect the grace you’ve been given? How would you, your family and your community look different?

Conclusion/Application:

Lord, help us live out our faith even though it is small. We want our mouths and hearts to build others up, giving grace to those who hear. Help us walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Embolden us to humbly choose and earnestly commit to live lives marked by forgiveness and grace.

By: Erin Holcomb

Luke 17:3-10

English Standard Version (ESV)

³ Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶ And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷ "Will any one of you who has a servant^[a] plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? ⁸ Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly,^[b] and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹ Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants;^[c] we have only done what was our duty.'"

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.