

Matthew 6:14-15

4/13/25

It boils down to this: how we respond to another person's sin against us ultimately demonstrates our friendship with Jesus Christ. It's a spiritual depth question. Jesus couldn't be any clearer, "If you forgive others their sins, your Heavenly Father will forgive you..."

There once was a person caught in the act of cheating. -John 8:1-11 What would you do? How do you respond when someone wrongs you?

The people who caught this person in the act of cheating brought the person to Jesus. How do you think Jesus responded to this sinner? The people wanted to punish the person because how else would we show everyone that the offense is serious, and we hold people to account?

This is not your typical Palm Sunday reading. But it is! The whole reason Palm Sunday happens is to forgive you your sins. You are probably expecting for Jesus to ride in on a donkey and for all of us waving the palms to welcome the Lord and Savior. Let's celebrate that Jesus lives to forgive us our sins!

Anyone in this room need forgiveness for something? Well, if you didn't raise your hand, you may or may not know this, this maybe a shock to you, but you maybe a liar.

Through Lent we have been hearing Christian values. Today we highlight acceptance and passion. Do you remember what Jesus did for the person who was caught cheating? The same crowd that wants to punish the person as severely as the Law allows, may have been the same crowd that waves palms as Jesus enters Jerusalem, it may have been the same crowd that yells crucify Him.

Jesus challenges us, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Jesus accepts that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. -Romans 3:23 Jesus accepts and is passionate that we are God's children and will go to the cross for us!

Jesus lives to empower us to overcome evil by going to the cross for those who hurt us!

Let's hear Jesus' acceptance and passion in Matthew 7:1-5.

Paul writes in Philippians 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone, the Lord is near." I know I have made some terrible choices in my life, and only by the grace of God do I stand. I don't know your secrets. I don't know your sins, but the Lord does. And I know on this Palm Sunday, Jesus accepts you as a child of God as Jesus accepted that person caught in the act of cheating.

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

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Let your gentleness be known to everyone, the Lord is near. This gentleness word in Greek is a word used for applying the law. It's like when a cop pulls you over for speeding. You know you were speeding, and the cop knows you were speeding. Now the cop can be gentle or harsh when applying the law. The cop could think if she had ever broken the law before, and how she would want treated in the same circumstance? A good cop will ask some questions to get context before applying the law. Jesus demonstrates how Christians respond when we catch someone cheating. Ask the question, "Have I ever cheated?"

Jesus does not want lawlessness. Jesus desires empathy as Travis preached two weeks back. Jesus desires understanding. Acceptance and passion are two of the highest Christian values. You remember what Jesus tells the person caught in the act of cheating? Go and sin no more!

Because when we sin, we are going to find ourselves nowhere and alone, like that person caught cheating finds herself. We are going to find ourselves being judged when we sin.

Jesus lives to free us from sin. Jesus lives to make us aware of sin. What is sin? Sin is any thought, word, action, or inaction that harms relationships. On this Palm Sunday, invite Jesus to march into your heart on that little donkey. As you are praying in your mind, wave the palms welcoming Jesus to live in you to make you aware of your sins and to turn from them.

Jesus teaches, "with the measure you give, the measure you will get." This especially true when we are dealing with other people. This is our challenge for spiritual depth. I invite you to deepen your friendship with Jesus Christ to live well, to live with purpose, to overcome evil.

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Will you be forgiven? Will you accept Jesus' forgiveness? Will you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Will you passionately practice the habits of Jesus to forgive others their sins?

Jesus couldn't be any clearer, "If you forgive others their sins, your Heavenly Father will forgive you..." This couldn't be any truer because it means you have accepted the love and grace of God and there is only one response, to passionately share the love and grace of God.

Love,
Pastor Curtis

Acceptance - tolerating those who do not conform to norms. Treating others the way they want to be treated.

Passionate - we care deeply about the people of NPC and will go the extra mile for the Lord and this community.