

Church

Sunday School lesson

BE FORGIVING
(Matthew 18:21-35)
"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)
The significance of forgiveness is seen throughout the Bible; both the old and New Testaments. God's people are supposed to be the most forgiving people on earth. Without a doubt they are, yet there is room for improvement. I was reading something recently where a person said that he had forgiven another transgression, but he would never forget it.
I wondered, as I read the statement, if the person had fully

forgiven the offender under those circumstances. A forgiving spirit is not a human trait, and it is most difficult to do. A forgiving spirit takes on divine qualities. Jehovah God, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, told the people of Judah and Israel that He would make a new covenant with them.
The new covenant would be put in their inward parts, written in their hearts. Then God said, "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34). When God forgives people their transgressions, He blots it from His mind, never to be remembered again. Jesus stressed forgiveness in the model prayer

which He taught His disciples to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)
Again, He taught from the cross when He prayed to the Father for forgiveness for His enemies, even those crucifying Him. The act of forgiveness is not an easy thing for us Christians—we have to talk to ourselves a lot.
However, it becomes easier as we practice it, and as we put it in perspective to what God has done for us through Christ Jesus. The scripture for the lesson today gives us through Christ Jesus. The scripture for the lesson today gives us some strong teaching concerning God's expectations from us.

times: but, until seventy times seven." (vs. 22)
Jesus said, in effect, not seven times but four hundred and ninety times, a figure indicating infinity. We humans like to set boundaries and limits in our acts. We like to say this far and no more, or, this is what is expected of me so I will do that much. The question which Peter asked indicates that he wanted to get the question of forgiveness in perspective to quantity. With a quantity figure we have a measure by which to evaluate ourselves.

We may be able to say "that man has told a mean lie about me six times and I have forgiven him—one more lie and that's it." Christ taught that forgiveness is not a matter of figures, but of compassion. Forgiveness has no limitations.
A PARABLE ABOUT FORGIVENESS.
(Matthew 18:23-34)
Jesus turned to His usual form of teaching, the parables, to complete His teaching on forgiveness on this day. The parable likened the Kingdom of Heaven to a certain king who periodically

checked his servants' accounts, or records, to be sure that everything was in order. One of his servants was brought to him that owed him a huge sum and was unable to pay it.
This servant fell down before the king and begged him to have patience until the servant was able to pay.



100th BIRTHDAY
W.H. Lane of 601 Pennsylvania Avenue was honored with a celebration on Dec. 15, 1985 on the occasion of his 100th birthday. The reception was given by his children at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Boyce.

A QUESTION ABOUT FORGIVENESS.
(Matthew 18:21-22)
The question which Peter asked Jesus was this, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? 'til seven times?" (vs. 21) Jesus replied, "I say not unto thee, until seven

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DR. A. F. DOWNUM, JR.
OPTOMETRIST
RECOGNIZING COLORS
People who have difficulty recognizing colors are commonly said to be color blind. Yet, the term color blind is very inaccurate. Only very few people are so totally color blind that they see the world as a black and white photograph. This very rare condition usually accompanies other vision defects such as nystagmus (rapid eye oscillations) and poor sight.
Generally, the problem is a color deficiency which makes certain colors or certain shades hard to recognize. About one in twelve men have some form of color deficiency, while only one woman in two hundred suffer from this disturbance. It is a genetic defect, always affects both eyes, and does not change appreciably during a lifetime.
Although there is no "cure" for the problem, there is some interesting work being done in helping the individual compensate for his or her deficiency.
Dr. A.F. Downum
103 W. Eden St.
Edenton, N.C.
Phone: 482-8444

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
The Federal Trade Commission passed new regulations concerning funeral practice on April 30, 1984. Among these are:
- Price information over the phone
- Disclosure information concerning embalming, outer burial containers, and other federal, state or local requirements
- A written list of all services available and the prices of each
- A written list of all caskets and other burial containers offered and their prices
If you have questions concerning these regulations or anything else we may help you with, feel free to call or come by. We are here to serve you.
Respectfully,
Larry Swindell
Swindell Funeral Home, Inc.
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Senior Center schedule

The Senior Center calendar for the remainder of January is as follows: Jan. 23; Bible study class 1:30-3:30; District 1-B meeting at Knobbs Creek Recreation Center, 2:00 p.m. Jan. 24; blood pressures checked for free; 9-12:00 and 2-5:00 p.m. Jan. 27; crochet, 1-4:00; Jan. 28; Early Bird Breakfast Club at Hertford Cafe 8:00 a.m. Bible study, 1:30-3:30; Jan. 29; bread-baking; 9-12 noon; bingo, 2-4:00. Jan. 30, Bible study; 1:30-3:30.

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Qualifications of a Good Pastor: Could You Measure Up?

By Tom Suplee, Pastor
New Hope United Methodist Church
Woodland United Methodist Church

Have you ever heard the expressions, "walk a mile in my shoes," or "put the shoe on the other foot"? Sure you have! I wonder how many laypersons would be willing to change places with their minister. Most laypersons fail to recognize that a pastor, in spite of his divine call and wonderful spiritual qualifications, is nevertheless a person, a human being like everyone else, and for that reason cannot possibly conform to the perfect pattern most cut out for him/her. When a new minister is called or appointed he's/she's expected to have almost superhuman qualifications: must be a good speaker, a deep Bible student, a spirited evangelist, a compassionate pastor, have the wisdom of Solomon, have a pleasing personality and good looks, an acute businessperson, be an effective and efficient administrator and must be creative and original! And the list goes on. Pity the poor preacher who fails to live up to all of these requirements.
Some time ago I came across an article entitled "Qualifications of a Good Pastor," in a booklet by Richard DeHaan, he further underscores the unreasonable demands often placed upon God's Servants. It reads as follows: "a good pastor must have; the daring of a lion, the wisdom of an owl, the harmlessness of a dove, the industry of a beaver, the gentleness of a sheep, the versatility of a chameleon, the

vision of an eagle, the hide of a rhinoceros, the perspective of a giraffe, the endurance of a camel, the bounce of a kangaroo, the stomach of a horse, the disposition of an angel, the loyalty of an apostle, the faithfulness of a prophet, the tenderness of a shepherd, the fervency of an evangelist, the devotion of a mother, and yet he/she would not please everyone!"

So layperson remember, your pastor cannot do or be all things to all persons! Thank God, He uses the weakest (not physical) of persons to serve so that He might be glorified through them. (1 Cor. 1:26-29) So don't be surprised or shocked when you discover your pastor does not live up to your expectations or possess all the qualifications you think he should have. For no servant possesses all the spiritual gifts . . . that's why your pastor needs you not to criticize but to work in partnership for the good of the kingdom.

I wonder how many laypersons after reading this article and considering their own qualifications and expectations, not to mention the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3, or Titus 1 would be willing to walk a mile in the preacher's shoes and really get out on the firing line?

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