

ISSUE

18.26

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

June 26,  
2016

## Services

Sunday: 9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter

Jeff Nunn

### Deacons:

Steve Dixon

Ryan Ferguson

Arend Gressley

Ben Hight

Blake McAlister

Brady McAlister

Walker McAnear

Sam Nunn

Lance Purcell

Rusty Scott

Justin Smiley

Trevor Yontz

### Evangelist:

Kyle Pope



## “As We Forgive Our Debtors”

By Kyle Pope

No one likes to be wronged. If we had our choice all of us would prefer to be treated with love, honor and respect. This makes us feel secure, confident and valued by those around us. When we are treated badly our self-image is threatened, our confidence is shaken and there wells up within us a desire to defend ourselves and lash out in retaliation for the wrong we have suffered. When we as Christians are wronged, if God’s word dwells within us we are confronted with a rather difficult duty: the obligation to forgive. God’s word makes it clear - **“...if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”** (Matthew 6:15, NKJV). We are told to pray - **“...forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors”** (Matthew 6:12). Thus, if we seek forgiveness it is clear that we must be forgiving people.

## Why Should We Forgive?

Men and women in the world view the forgiveness of others as something that yields no satisfactory outcome. The world finds satisfaction only in retaliation. Their thinking is that of the “**carnal mind**” (Romans 8:7) possessed by those who “**set their minds on the things of the flesh**” (Romans 8:5). When a person does not real-

ize their own sinfulness before God, neither will they recognize their own unworthiness in the face of God’s offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. They possess a “**debased mind**” (Romans 1:28) that is “**unforgiving**” and “**unmerciful**” (Romans 1:31). As Christians we must forgive because we have been forgiven. Anything less is a demonstration of how little we value God’s mercy towards us.

## When Do We Forgive?

Luke 17:3 tells us - “**...If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.**” (Luke 17:3). A key thought here is repentance. In our dealings with others we must never be so passive that we come across as if we are tolerant or willing to ignore sin. At the same time we must neither be so “thin-skinned” that we are upset at the slightest word or deed that is done to us. The Bible instructs us to be - “**...swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath**” (James 1:19) with a love that - “**bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things**” (1 Corinthians 13:7). We must not allow someone’s tone of voice, hasty word or tactless comment to bring to our hearts bitterness and resentment. As Christians, our first thoughts when we



feel wronged should be “maybe I misunderstood” or perhaps they intended it this way...” By assuming this frame of mind we are in a more objective position to analyze the situation free from self-defensive emotion.

### What If Repentance Doesn't Occur?

There will be those times when we are wronged and yet the other person does not repent of the wrong. Does this mean that we are justified in harboring resentment against them until they repent? Not at all! Mark 11:25 teaches - **“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”** (Mark 11:25). In this text nothing is said about the other person's repentance. Instead what is clear is that the person who has been wronged must, within their own mind, put the matter behind them and forgive the other person. This is the same character shown in the examples of Jesus (Luke 23:34) and Stephen (Acts 7:60) when both forgave their offenders of their offense



towards them. This doesn't mean that the one who has done wrong doesn't have an obligation to God to repent. What this does show us is that spiritually minded souls settle such matters within their own mind long before the offender returns to them in repentance (if they ever do).

### What Good Does It Do?

Harboring feelings of resentment in our hearts



demands a great deal of emotional labor and mental energy. We must continually “fuel the fire” to keep resentment burning within us. It becomes harder and harder to **“set your mind on things above”** (Colossians 3:2) when we must continually fill our thoughts with the

refuse of resentment. Forgiveness accomplishes great good in that it benefits both the recipient and the one who extends it. It frees us in much the same way that repentance does, which is said to allow - **“...times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”** (Acts 3:19).

The Israelites were warned - **“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people...”** (Leviticus 19:18). Christians are warned that - **“ judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy...”** (James 2:13). If we want to be forgiven we can not withhold forgiveness from someone else.



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# *Welcome Visitors*

**We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.**

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**