

**REVIEW**

- **Two weeks ago:** We are called to be salt and light in the world. We live in a way that honors and represents God and is a blessing to those around us.
- **Last week:** The Good Samaritan. We meet needs and have mercy for others regardless of how they treat us—even those who don't like us or who we don't like.

**SETTING THE STAGE**

**Matthew 22:36-40** <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup>And he [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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**THE STORY: THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN CAN BE COMPARED TO...**

**Matthew 18:23-35** <sup>23</sup>Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, “Pay what you owe.” <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

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**ACCOUNTS GET SETTLED, BE READY: BELIEVE.**

**Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

**Colossians 2:13-14** <sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

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**RESPONSE: HUMILITY.**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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**LIFE CHANGE: THANKFULNESS.**

**Colossians 3:12-13** <sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

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**PEOPLE ARE WATCHING: SELFLESS AND AWARE.**

**Hebrews 13:1-2** <sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

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**RESPONSIBILITY AS WE GO: COMMITMENT.**

**Matthew 28:18-20** <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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**GOD IS SERIOUS ABOUT FORGIVENESS: BELIEVE.**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Matthew 18:35** So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

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**GOD SETS US UP TO GROW IN FORGIVENESS: ABIDE.**

**Matthew 6:9-15** <sup>9</sup>Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup>and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” <sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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**Next Week: New Sermon Series: One**