



"...And forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our
debtors."
- Matthew 6:12

Summer fun continues on Drummond Island as family and friends gather for much needed R&R. And whenever gatherings occur, there can also be friction. Rash words, hurt feelings, angry exchanges can lead to hearts closing and protective stances where people stubbornly cling to their claim to be "right". People "owe" us an apology! Oftentimes, the apology never arrives and this lands us squarely in the mire of *unforgiveness*.

Unforgiveness is costly. When we choose to disconnect from someone, it spills over into all our other relationships (including God) with toxic mistrust, suspicion, and fear. The emotional wall we have carefully constructed effectively blocks out positive connections along with the negative. A lonely place to be!

Jesus invites us to forgive those "debts". The biblical Greek word means to "let go", "release". It begins with a choice to let go of your judgment. It also means releasing control over the situation and turning it over to God's guidance. As you choose this path again and again, your emotions begin to heal. Walls break down to let in fresh air. You can breathe!

Forgiveness takes courage. But it frees you from the prison cell you have built for yourself. Who do you need to release today?

Scott

Matthew 18: 21-35

KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **POTLUCK/BBQ AUG. 2** after worship! The church supplies dogs, burgers, and drinks. You bring a side dish or dessert, along with a friend or two!

- Save the dates:
 - **Annual Meeting, Aug. 2** during potluck after worship, to explore our mission & ministry.
 - **AUG. 9:** We gather at **D.I. Baptist Church** for the **Amy Shreve Harp Concert**.
 - **Baked goods Bingo Aug. 19th**, Twp. Hall, 7 pm (helpers @ 5:30)



July through September begins our **third quarter missions giving** toward "local outreach", where we seek to support individuals, families, and organizations, both prayerfully and financially. Just like the church in Acts chapter 2, we want to be a blessing to our community in creative ways, sharing the good news of Jesus to all!

Just a reminder... To keep the *October Romania mission trip* in your prayers (details on our website). Contact Shirley Hollister 517-425-2836.

Our **Second Quarter Mission Collection** was **\$3,413**, split between [Bay Cliff Health Camp](#) and [Compass](#) Pregnancy and Resource Center. Well done!

Forgiveness: *An Act of Obedience* ♥

Forgiveness. If we're honest, we aren't very openhanded with it and tend to withhold it until we feel ready, or the offender shows some indication of their remorse. Some of us have been known to say; "I'm praying and asking God to help me to forgive." That sounds correct, but it isn't biblical.

The fact is, forgiving someone is an act of obedience, not a feeling. Jesus wasn't suggesting we forgive one another, He was commanding us to.

Peter thought himself charitable when he suggested that number. But Jesus wanted to (over)



show him that true forgiveness, like love, has no limit. In this account of the unmerciful servant, Jesus demonstrated how we should forgive (Matt. 18:21-35).

I have read the narrative hundreds of times and never understood why God would want us to become doormats. After all, if someone repeatedly wrongs you, how long before you decide you've had enough? It never made much sense to me. But, when you're earnestly seeking God and asking Him to show you the error of your ways, He will.

Several years ago, someone hurt me. The individual was calculating and callous. It would be some time before they sought my forgiveness. As a Christian, I knew what I had to do, even though I didn't feel like doing it. I told them I forgave them, and that it was good we put the matter behind us. However, it would be some time before I followed through with actions that proved my words. During this season of conflict, God was teaching me that the temptation to relive the pain and anger would resurface often, and I had to choose to forgive *every single time*. I know this is not a new revelation, but I don't think this truth can be stressed enough.

Months passed before I ran into that person again, and instantly my entire body tensed. My wounds were deep and justified, I thought. I was holding on to the offense like a comfortable robe. Only I didn't know it was dirty. As I considered this portion of Scripture again, I realized I was behaving like a child, who had been caught treating his younger sibling poorly. I knew my Father expected me to say I was sorry, but I hadn't forgiven from my heart (vs. 35). And that is how God wants us to forgive. I have since surrendered the offense and offered forgiveness that looks a lot more like God's supernatural love....

After all, isn't that how we were won over? Extend forgiveness today. When you do, you will walk unencumbered by the sin that so easily entangles.

PRAYER

Lord, forgiveness is such a hard act of the heart. So many times, I don't want to forgive those who have hurt me. Instead, I want to hold on to the offense. But that is not Your way. Help me to forgive 77 times. Remind me in the moments when my flesh is weak and I don't want to, that is how You have forgiven me. Lord, I am asking You to help me forgive _____ today. Amen.

~ By Nydia DiCarali

(<https://justbetweenus.org/everyday-faith/daily-devotions/forgiveness-is-an-act-of-obedience/>)

Pearls Of Wisdom

"Our True Identity In Christ"

We are holy and blameless.

See: Ephesians 1:4

♥ - Ruth Wise

August Birthdays

- 17. Bill Stacy
- 18. Nancy Yarmoluk
- 22. Greg Yarmoluk
- 24. Laurie Mitchell
- 26. John Orr
- 29. Sue Tyler

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE
DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY: **TUESDAY,**
AUG. 25TH. (Email, if possible)



*Lighthouse
Church*

Scott Danforth, Pastor
P.O. Box 40

(906) 493-5233
Drummond Island, MI 49726

E-mail: lighthousechurch906@gmail.com

www.LighthouseChurchDrummondIsland.com