

One Sunday morning, some years ago, a woman shook my hand following worship and said, "Good sermon this morning, Pastor, they really needed to hear that."

Now I don't want any of you to say that, or even to think that this morning God's word is preached this morning to enter through your ears into your heart. God is not speaking to your neighbor, his work is not for that person on the other side of the sanctuary, but for you, and you alone.

~~It is not for that person on the other side of the sanctuary, but for you, and you alone.~~

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

A king wished to settle accounts. A servant was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents, the amount that a worker would be able to earn in a hundred and fifty thousand years. When brought before the king, the servant pleaded, Have patience with me and I will pay you everythingg. Now the king might well have laughed, some patience that would be to wait for 150 thousand years. But having pity on the servant, the king forgave him his debt.

As he left the king's presence he passed a fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii, 100 days wages. Grabbing him by the throat he demanded, pay what you owe." Have patience with me, and I will pay you came the reply. But the forgiven one would not be forgiving. He threw his fellow servant into prison. When the king heard of it, he threw him into jail, vowing he would not get out until he had paid the last penny.

So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

He was a drunk. Twice he had caused serious accidents. That day back in 1962 was the third time. He pulled out in front of their car. Sherida, a bright blond five year old was thrown into the windshield. Never again would she walk, never again would she go to school, ~~never again would she go to school,~~ always from that day on her speech would be like a recording played back at too slow a speed.

Forgive?



around me to pull me free. The killing current has passed through him, to save my life he has given his. My brother and my God Lord.

Forgive. Through Jesus Christ God will do it in you. *Even who are able to come from the dead* He puts in you *from the dead* a new heart, forgiven and forgiving. With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

~~Forgive~~ ~~this~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~an~~ ~~edge~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~faith~~ ~~something~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~ ~~for~~ ~~credit~~ ~~but~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~very~~ ~~heart~~ ~~and~~ ~~center~~ ~~of~~ ~~God~~ ~~gave~~ ~~his~~ ~~only~~ ~~son~~ ~~to~~ ~~die~~ ~~for~~ ~~us~~ ~~that~~ ~~we~~ ~~might~~ ~~be~~ ~~forgiven~~

God has prepared a table here. We come like that servant who came to the king, on our knees begging God's ~~forgiveness~~ patience with us. But God is more than patient, canceling every debt and obligation and sin in the body and blood of his son. We stand a new people, God's own people, ~~sent~~ sent forth to live as his new people in this world. The parable is our story, yet through the grace of God, given a new and happy ending in us. Amen.