



JESUS OF NAZARETH
GREATNESS
MATTHEW 18
8-16-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Reflect:

The soul is healed by being with children— Fyodor Dostoevsky

A child kicks his legs rhythmically through excess, not absence, of life. Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, “Do it again”; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, “Do it again” to the sun; and every evening, “Do it again” to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we— G.K. Chesterton

Welcome

Good Morning! Today is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. No matter what our circumstances are right now, we can choose to worship. Take a moment to pray and center your heart and mind on Jesus and the kingdom of God. Acknowledge all that you are currently feeling and thinking. Come real. Come authentic. Come transparent.

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship: Psalm 10

Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised. For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them. He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.” His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent. His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net. The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.



He says in his heart, “God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.” Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted. Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, “You will not call to account”?

But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless. Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none.

The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land. O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Christ Candle – Light the candle as a reminder that God is Light (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)!

We live in a dark world. A significant portion of that darkness resides in the persecution of Christians around the world for their faith in Jesus of Nazareth. In America, in general, this persecution is minimal. We are free to be disciples of Jesus as individuals, as families and as congregations. We are not singled out and threatened with death, violence or imprisonment simply because we identify as a Christian. We have it easy. That is not true for millions of Christians around the world where there are extreme consequences to being a disciple of Jesus from your family, others and the government. In many countries it is illegal to be a Christian and punishable by imprisonment or death. For the foreseeable future, we will look at some of these countries as ranked by Open Doors USA to keep us aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ who need our prayers and help and to remind us to be grateful for how good we have it here.

Last week in the service we mentioned Afghanistan as the second hardest place in the world to be a Christian. The place with the third worst persecution rate is Somalia. Somalia remains mired in civil war, tribalism and violent Islamic militancy. Conversion to Christianity is regarded as a betrayal of the Somali family and clan. If Somalis are suspected of being converts, family members and clan leaders will harass, intimidate and even kill them. Christians with a Muslim background are regarded as high-value targets by al-Shabab operatives and have often been killed on the spot when discovered.

Prayer Points: Pray for the government of Somalia, that its leaders will be opened to the truth of the gospel and there will be more safety and protection for Christians. Pray for Somali Christians who often must hide their faith to survive. Pray that they will have courage and hope in the midst of extreme persecution. Pray specifically for Christians who convert from Islam, that God will give them wisdom and access to a Bible and discipleship.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Song: Death Was Arrested -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>

*Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began
Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began*



*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You
Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began
Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You
Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began
Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You
Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free free, forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began*

Responsive Reading – Matthew 18

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. “See that you do not despise one of



these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

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.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

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. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father, sometimes we forget people, or we toss them aside – the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us, the ones we need to forgive. And sometimes when we do things like that, it’s not really about the other people, but about us. We are uncomfortable, or we feel guilty, or we follow brighter, shinier people, or we worry about what will make us look good. We are in such desperate need of your grace and mercy. We need to remember and believe that we are forgiven in order to forgive. Help us to be more gracious and merciful towards others. Help us to see others more clearly in the light of the gospel of Jesus of



Nazareth. Help us to seek to be people of reconciliation, of seeking to care and nurture and develop relationships with others. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Song: Amazing Grace -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrwkCOUOlil>

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace
The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures
My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace
My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine*

Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration

As schools across the country are beginning to open up and consider opening up, let's take a moment to pray for the education of our youth. We have kids in both public and private schools that will



navigate these challenging educational waters along with educational professionals in the classrooms and district offices. Specifically, please pray for Oakdale High School and Ripon Christian High School as they both enter into this uncertain time to make the most of the opportunities they have.

Gospel Message: Image and Demonstration of Greatness

Chapter 18 is about the image and demonstration of greatness as a disciple of Jesus and as a child of the kingdom of heaven. The image will be a child. The demonstration will be forgiveness. The context will be the church community or congregation. So, think of our church, Community Christian Reformed Church for where and how this is most vividly live out. The words of Jesus are again poignant and profound. He says that unless we are converted (“turn” v. 3) to a certain state, we will “never enter the kingdom of heaven.” When he says “never,” he means never. So, unless we are becoming this, we are not entering the kingdom of heaven!

How does the world define greatness? How do you define greatness? How does Jesus define greatness? Peter, James and John have just had a once-in-a-lifetime experience of seeing Jesus of Nazareth transfigure and Moses and Elijah appear before their eyes. I’m thinking if I am one of the three coming off that mountain top high I might be tempted to think a little too highly of myself. I might be tempted to think that Jesus chose me and not the other nine because of something good or better in me than them. And while they maybe didn’t verbalize it initially to the other nine, I am pretty confident it showed in their eyes. Both gospels according to Mark and Luke include the detail that the disciples were arguing amongst themselves in a house in Capernaum (Mark 9:33) after the transfiguration. They were arguing about who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Luke says explicitly that they were arguing over which of them was the greatest (Luke 9:46)! Can you imagine arguing about who is the greatest in front of THE GREATEST, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God and to whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bend to?!

Jesus’ answer is equally amazing – a child! He says, “Whoever humbles themselves like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Wait. Really? When most people think of greatness, they think of people like Martin Luther King, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Mike Trout, the President, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, or maybe a teacher or parent. No one thinks of a child – except Jesus of Nazareth. What is it about a child that Jesus of Nazareth finds great? Matthew tells us plainly – humility. Unless we are humble like a child, we will not go to heaven; we will not be saved; we will not be a disciple of Jesus; we will not be a Christian. Now humility is not listed very high up the list of qualities needed to be great in America. In fact, in many people’s eyes, humility is a negative trait that will not get you up the ladder of success and greatness but keep you at the bottom as others more powerful climb right over the top of you (remember the caterpillar pillars?). Humility is equated with weakness and getting pushed around. However, this is not biblical humility which is a profound state of right understanding about who we are in relationship with our Creator. And Jesus uses a child to remind us of what this means and looks like.

The image of greatness that Jesus places in front of his prideful, arguing disciples is the humility of a child. Now when some of us think of a child we do not immediately see or think of humility. Right? They can be quite self-centered and selfish with half their vocabulary being “me”, “give me”, “mine”, etc. The world seems to revolve around them. We might be thinking how can a child image greatness through humility? What Jesus is getting at is the objective state of dependence a child has upon their parents for food, shelter, clothing, advocacy, knowledge, belonging, acceptance and love. They don’t



question this (at least not a first when they are younger). They accept and embrace their dependency on their adult parents. They implicitly trust them to provide, to care and to nurture them. This creates a state in which the child realizes they are subject to their parents. It is the parents who are in control, who are in charge, who have the authority and not them. It is the parents who encourage, teach, discipline, nurture and protect them and not the other way around. Jesus of Nazareth is saying that we as children of God by grace and through faith are to have this same implicit humble dependence in the authoritative love of the Living God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit like a child.

What happens when we “grow up?” Yes. We become self-sufficient. We don’t need our parents to provide for us, protect us, advocate for us, make us feel like we belong, are accepted and loved. We can take care of this ourselves now thank you very much! And to some degree this is necessary and true; we are to become mature and learn to be an active participant in society by learning and earning through getting a job and contributing back into society. However, the great danger is that we do that and lose God; lose Jesus of Nazareth. I don’t need him anymore. I can provide just fine for myself and my family. I can protect myself. I can provide for myself. I can advocate for myself. I can create my own networks of belonging and acceptance and love. I don’t need Jesus for anything except to get me into heaven and all I have to do for that (so they are wrongly told) is believe that Jesus died for my sins so I can go to heaven someday. He doesn’t need to take care of me. I will take care of myself thank you very much. He doesn’t need to lead my life. I will lead my own life thank you very much! He doesn’t need to teach me. I will get my own education and degrees and knowledge and experience on my own. You see, we can grow up and think we do not need Jesus anymore; that we don’t need him to be our way, truth and life; to be our leader, master, Lord and Savior every day and in every situation. We become people of pride – the opposite of humility and dependent faith in Jesus Christ. I have a great life, great spouse, great kids, great job, great friends, great school. I made it. I arrived. I succeeded. I am great in my own eyes. Pat myself on the back – grab a drink and toast my accomplishments. No! James, the brother of Jesus writes that God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble when they submit themselves to God (James 4:6-10). Self-sufficient pride that excludes the need for Jesus in our daily lives is antithetical to being a child of God. It is something to be fought against and repented of. Why? Because the proud will not enter the kingdom of heaven. They may flourish in the eyes of the world but they utterly fail at being a human who is supposed to image Christ, the Creator and Lord of the universe. This is a perfect example of the upside-down nature of our world; of the cultural current that flows counter to the way, truth and life of Jesus of Nazareth. The gospel teaches us to fly right side up and to swim with the flow of the gospel. When we do this, we see the false-narrative spun around humility as a quality that is not valued because the prize is worldly greatness not kingdom greatness, secular success and not discipleship success, worldly goals and not saintly goals. We are told to be successful we must be the Lord of our own life when Christianity tells us just the opposite – that to be successful, we must let Jesus be Lord of our life and submit to him as God and not myself or any other created thing. Pride is founded on the false narrative of trusting in self or another created thing over God. We see this in the opening chapters of the Bible with Adam and Eve who trust Satan over God, thinking that they know better, that God is holding out, that they are better off running their own lives and making their own decisions even when they counter their benevolent, loving, gracious and all-powerful Creator.

The image of greatness in the kingdom of God is the humility of a little child. It is not found in people



creating a pecking order of success and value by comparing and sizing up others and how I measure up to them. The image of greatness is found in people who eliminate the pecking order and see themselves as well as others as fallen image bearers of God who all need his mercy, grace and love; to measure themselves against true perfection – Jesus himself. Humility is said to have a right perspective of oneself. When we hear and believe the biblical and gospel story, we come to know that we are both far worse than we know and far more loved than we can imagine. We don't measure up. We are all dead in our trespasses and sins and enemies of God. We are not great but wretched. However, we also come to recognize our greatness in Christ – that we are uniquely created in all the universe in the image and likeness of God – we are messed up masterpieces that only the master painter can restore. We are unable to restore ourselves and so there is no opportunity or room for pride. There is plenty of room for humility – to recognize our sinfulness and complete need for Jesus to save us from our sins and from the wrath of God against us because of our sins. Humility orientates us properly in our relationship with God and others in such a way that we are infinitely inferior to God, equal to each other and superior to all other creation. That means we are to submit to God, co-labor together as his disciples and be loving stewards over this world – under, side-by-side, over. Pride messes that all up by placing ourselves over God and/or over others.

In the verses about the temptation to sin and the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus drives the image of greatness of a child even further by elaborating on their value to him and the kingdom. Jesus loves children. He loves children to such a degree that he says it would be better for a person to drown themselves than tempt a child to sin – to live contrary to the kingdom of God. It would be better to cut off a foot or hand if it was used to lead a child into sin. Jesus takes our relationship with children very seriously. So should we. Our posture towards children is love and gratitude and delight to learn from and to nurture them into image bearers of Jesus. Jesus says we are not to despise children but to see their worth and potential. They have angels in heaven that are in the presence of God the Father. They are so valuable that Jesus says it is right to leave the 99 and rescue the one who has gone astray. What he is saying is clear by the following verses. He says that it is not the will of the Father to lose any children – none! How amazing and wonderful is that!

So Jesus sets the image of greatness to that of a humble child and goes out of his way to emphasize their value and worth in the kingdom of God. He now is going to show what that humble greatness looks like amongst believers. The demonstration of humble greatness is forgiveness. Jesus immediately goes into a lesson and a parable on forgiveness. The lesson is how a "humble-like-a-child" disciple will seek to interact with another disciple who sins against them. Jesus tells us very clearly what is supposed to happen when someone sins (lies, defames, gossips, steals, abuses etc.) against us and it is not revenge, retaliation or getting even. It is not harboring bitterness or whining or complaining to others. It is not denigrating or insulting or tearing down or belittling or name-calling or self-righteous judging or ignoring or inflating them or the situation. It is not seeking to prove them wrong and you right. It is not going to the pastor or others to triangulate against this person or for someone else to make it right for you. No, Jesus says it is the responsibility of the one sinned against to go to this person in a humble-like-a-child posture and demonstrate greatness by seeking reconciliation to restore the damaged relationship. It is a move of healing. It is a move of love. It is a move of grace and mercy. It is a move of restoration.

The first step is going to this person alone. It is hoped this first step of meeting between two people



will result in a recognition of the sin, repentance and forgiveness. Thus, the relationship, while scarred is restored. If the person does not listen, only then are we instructed to bring one or two witnesses to help establish the “evidence.” Again, the hope is for the person who committed the sin to recognize it, repent and ask for forgiveness. If they do not, only then does it go to the larger church community. And again, the goal is recognition of the sin, repentance and forgiveness. If they refuse to listen to the church, only then are they to be treated as a “Gentile” or “tax collector.” That is, as a pagan; as someone who does not know and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. They need to be evangelized as a lost person, as a person separated from the kingdom of God. Now, all of this takes humility on both sides. Any pride will disrupt the process and journey of reconciliation. Pride will refuse to listen and repent and ask for forgiveness. Pride will refuse to go to the person discreetly in love and grace and mercy. Pride will seek to be right and to get even and to tear down and to belittle and to demean the other. Pride destroys reconciliation and is the antithesis to the demonstration of kingdom greatness. Humble-like-a-child forgiveness is the demonstration of kingdom greatness.

Jesus drives this home just like he did with the value of the child earlier when Peter tries to put some limitations and boundaries to forgiveness. In putting the number seven times out there, Peter was actually being quite generous with his forgiveness. The standard set by the religious Rabbi’s as more than sufficient was three. So, Peter is getting grace; he is getting mercy but he has not quite gotten to abundance portion of them yet. Jesus blows Peter’s generous suggestion away. Not seven times but seventy-seven times! What! Yes – the forgiven endlessly forgives. There is no limit. There are no boundaries. **Forgiven people forgive. Period. The image of greatness is child-like humility. The demonstration of kingdom greatness in forgiveness.**

Jesus then provides a poignant parable to further make his point crystal clear: kingdom greatness is demonstrated by forgiving others as we have been forgiven in Christ. The parable is simple. A person owes another a massive amount of money. So much that it would be impossible to pay off. The person recognizes this and to avoid having himself and his family sold as payment, he begs for mercy. Remarkably, he receives it. Now he goes out free and learns that a person owes him a very little amount of money but refuses to forgive the debt and physically assaults him (chokes) to get the money. The irony is abundantly evident. He was forgiven much but he could not forgive another a little. This is not kingdom greatness. This is destructive pride. Jesus is saying that we as his disciple have been forgiven a debt of sin that we cannot and could not ever pay. Yet, in God’ great love and mercy and grace through the substitutionary and sacrificial life, death and resurrection of Jesus, forgives us. We ought to be eternally grateful and our lives transformed in such a way that we too would seek to forgive others because we know what it means and feels like to be forgiven. Forgiven people forgive. That is the lesson and that is the demonstration.

Jesus concludes with a stunning statement, “In anger, the master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also will my heavenly Father do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from the heart.” That is not a threat. It is a warning. Jesus says the Father will not hesitate to make “ever one of you” responsible to pay an unpayable debt and to throw them into jail until it can be paid (which is forever because it is unpayable). This does not mean that we don’t struggle in living this out well. Christian people can do some horrific things to one another. However, it is not true that a person cannot forgive another no matter what was done. To not forgive another is a choice that is firmly planted in pride. Pride in this case is holding onto a justified anger against another person and



choosing not to work towards reconciliation. The child like humility that is formed in us through the regular hearing and believing the gospel of Jesus Christ softens our hearts towards others. We have all heard of remarkable stories of Christians forgiving others who have done horrifying things to them or their family. The world cannot understand this because they do not understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. That forgiveness is a demonstration of kingdom greatness and powerful and is a credible and coherent witness to Jesus Christ and the gospel of his kingdom.

What happens if the one who sinned does not want to reconcile or repent or ask for forgiveness? Then the prior lesson on approaching the sinner applies. What if I have a problem forgiving another? Preach the gospel to yourself and ask for a softened heart to forgive as you were forgiven. Remember, to forgive is not to forget or not be angry that an offense has occurred. In fact, it is just the opposite. It recognizes the offense and its significance and the need for repentance and reconciliation. **Forgiveness takes sin seriously.** Forgiven people are always to be in the posture of forgiving others, even when that is not being reciprocated back. The image of greatness in the kingdom is a child. The demonstration of greatness in the kingdom is forgiveness. The connection between the two is that only a humble heart can forgive others from the heart. Who in your life do you need to seek reconciliation with? Who in your life do you need to offer forgiveness to? Maybe it is yourself. Preach the gospel to yourself. You are forgiven in Christ. He paid the unpayable debt and set you free from your sins so you can forgive yourself (because if God forgives you, you can forgive you) and forgive others in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Communion Meditation

Professing:

Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Remember, believe the body and blood of Jesus was given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Pray for those you might have a hard time forgiving. See them as image bearers of God whom He forgives just like he forgives us.

Song: Build My Life -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=QZW4_8_zCBE&feature=emb_title

*Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, we live for You*

*Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, we live for You*

*Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and*



*Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me
Jesus, the name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
You're worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh we live for You
Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and
Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me
And I will build my life upon Your love,
It is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken
And I will build my life upon Your love,
It is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken
Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and
Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me
And I will build my life upon Your love,
It is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

What line in the song above stands out in a helpful way for you? How might God be calling you to change because of it (in what you might think, feel, say or do)?

May we enter into our spheres of influence (work, home, neighborhood, school) with a posture of humility grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we seek to be an image and demonstrate kingdom greatness through reconciliatory acts of love and forgiveness to others, including ourselves! May we be humble enough to recognize our own sinfulness and need to repent and ask for forgiveness from others.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!