



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 5/11-12/19

John 20:19-23, New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

The devotions this week focus on forgiveness. Each day you will see a quote from an author/theologian I respect and have learned from. Following each quote will be a couple of questions for you to reflect on.

I hope you find the devotions meaningful, thought-provoking and inspiring.

With grace and hope, Nancy ...

Monday, 5/13/2019

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"One of my wise teachers, Dr. William F. Orr, told me, 'There is only one thing evil cannot stand and that is forgiveness.'"

- Why is it that evil cannot stand forgiveness?

Prayer: Our Father ...

Rogers, F. (2003). *The world according to mister rogers: important things to remember*. New York. Hachette Books.

Tuesday, 5/14/2019

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"Forgiveness is a way of life, God's way of life, God's way to life; and if you close your heart to forgiveness, why, then you close your heart to forgiveness. That is the point of the terrifying parable in Matthew 18, about the slave who had been forgiven millions but then dragged a colleague into court to settle a debt of a few pence. If you lock up the piano because you don't want to play to somebody else, how can God play to you?

That is why we pray, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' That isn't a bargain we make with God. It's a fact of human life. Not to forgive is to shut down a faculty in the innermost person, which happens to be the same faculty that can receive God's forgiveness. It also happens to be the same faculty that can experience real joy and real grief. 'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.'

- Ponder what it means that forgiveness is not a bargain with God.
- How does this affect your perspective on forgiveness?

Prayer: Our Father ...

Wright, N. T. (2008). *Surprised by hope: rethinking heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church*. New York. Harper One.

Wednesday, 5/15/2019

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"Few things are more emotionally painful than unwarranted distance between ourselves and others. The ego creates distance through judgment and attack. Forgiveness is when we then stand up to the ego, commanding it to go back to the nothingness from whence it came. We choose instead to think as God thinks, and God does not condemn. God does not condemn because He sees us only as He created us. We will be at peace, and the world will be at peace, when we learn to see each other as God does. Learning to do this is the only reason we are here."

- What does this mean for you: God sees us as He created us?
- How does this make a difference in how you see others?

Prayer: Our Father ...

Williamson, M. (2016). *Tears to triumph: the spiritual journey from suffering to enlightenment*. New York. Harper One.

Thursday, 5/16/2019

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Pastor Joe, in a sermon, says: "In order to for forgiveness to happen, something has to die. If you make a choice to forgive, you have to face into the pain. You simply have to hurt." Brown goes on to quote Desmond Tutu (Friday), and then writes: "So, forgiveness is not forgetting or walking away from accountability or condoning a hurtful act; it's the process of taking back and healing our lives so we can truly live."

- Is there something in your life that needs to die?
- What boundaries will you set so you can live as a forgiven child of God?

Prayer: Our Father ...

Brown, B. (2015). *Rising strong: the reckoning. the rumble. The revolution*. New York. Spiegel & McGrau

Friday, 5/17/2019

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Brene Brown goes on to quote Archbishop Desmond Tutu ...

“To forgive is not just to be altruistic. It is the best form if (sic) self-interest. It is also a process that does not exclude hatred and anger. These emotions are all part of being human. You should never hate yourself for hating others who do terrible things: The depth of your love is shown by the extent of your anger.

“However, when I talk of forgiveness, I mean the belief that you can come out the other side a better person. A better person than one being consumed by anger and hatred. Remaining in that state locks you in a state of victimhood, making you almost dependent on the perpetrator. If you can find it in yourself to forgive, then you are no longer chained to the perpetrator. You can move on, and you can even help the perpetrator to become a better person, too.”

- What does it mean for you to be a better person?
- What kind of person/life do you believe God is calling you to?

Prayer: Our Father ...

**This week’s devotional was written by
Pastor Nancy Liston (nliston@plattewoodschurch.org).**