

Sermon Guide for March 22, 2026

Sermon Title: “How Many Times”

Primary Text: Matthew 18

This week we took a slight detour away from Colossians to examine how **Jesus Christ** described the way the church behaves. The main focus of the passage – including the “Church Discipline” section – isn’t a way to reprove the church, but how to bring them back into fellowship together.

Forgiveness is a primary theme for the text, and is the focus of Jesus’ parable at the end of the passage, often titled “The Ungrateful Servant.” When Peter asked the question “How Many Times” he should forgive a brother or sister, Jesus answered the question directly and provided an illustration and application that can be quite sobering to the believer! Because the Christian has been the recipient of God’s incalculable grace and mercy through the forgiveness of our **SIN**, there is no proper response to fellow Christian’s action than intentional forgiveness.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Colossians 1:13-14

Ephesians 2:8-9

Colossians 3:9-17

Questions to Consider this week:

- Where have I seen growth in forgiving others? How can I apply this growth in the things I’m facing this week?
- Pastor mentioned frequently that Forgiveness and Reconciliation are not the same thing. Are there areas that I need to forgive, even if Reconciliation seems out of reach? Are there areas that I need to pursue Reconciliation where I have forgiven?
- Most modern tellings of the Count of Monte Cristo have us rooting for him as he seeks revenge. How do I have an attitude towards others that might be more like Edmund Dantes (seeking retribution) than Christ (releasing the debt)?

Guided Prayer

Lord Jesus, Thank You for forgiving me. The debt I owed you is far greater than I could ever have repaid. Help me acknowledge to myself and to you that the “debt” others owe me is real, and then help me forgive them. Show me how I can love my brothers and sisters, even when I am hurt by them. -AMEN

Song for Personal Worship:

“My Worth is Not in What I Own” (Gettys, ft. John Piper, *We are Messengers*)

https://youtu.be/ytJymjk9xk8?si=ZWdi06Hc_zvxDxGj