

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

**“For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”
Hebrews 8:12**

The author of Hebrews was writing to those Jewish Christians, familiar with what we now call the Old Testament. In Jeremiah 31:33-34 we read: “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.”

In Jesus, we now have a perfect example of God showing mercy for our sins. God’s law of mercy and love are written on our hearts. In Jesus, the son, we know our God, the Creator. He does not remember our wrongs. Why do we hold onto the guilt of those mistakes?

Say or sing.

“There’s a wideness in God’s mercy Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in His justice Which is more than liberty.
If our love were but more simple, We should take Him at his word;
And our lives would be illumined By the presence of our Lord.”

MONDAY, MARCH 28

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves,
and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

We often call ourselves a Christian Nation. Are we? As a nation are we willing to admit that we have forgotten God, believed our blessings were a result of our own work, recognized the sins of racism and economic inequity and humbled ourselves before our Creator?

We are quick to separate ourselves from the sins of our nation’s past. Claiming we never owned slaves, so we are not responsible for the consequences of slavery that have lingered in our history for generations. It is time to humble ourselves as a nation. Recognizing our racism has and continues to infiltrate our lives. God will show us how the land will be healed through his people when we admit our sin.

Say or sing. “Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a new a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on, till victory is won.”

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

“So, if you are offering your gift at the altar
and there remember that your brother has something against you,
leave your gift there before the altar and go.
First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23-24

So often we offer gifts to God when we are at odds with our families, friends, or neighbors. Perhaps we are sharing our time and talents because of the guilt we feel at being angry with or estranged from those with whom we are to be in loving fellowship.

God reminds us that we can not offer Him our best until we have made amends with those we have wronged or have wronged us.

Pray. “Called to portray You, help us to live closer than neighbors, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive” Verse 2 of “We are Your People”

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

**“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”
Acts 17:30**

In today’s world ignorance is a conscious choice we make. We have at our fingertips numerous ways to obtain information. We cannot remain ignorant of our God and what is required of us who follow. God will no longer overlook our ignorance. We are called to repent, to turn away from that which is not of God and turn towards what our Lord wants for our lives.

**Pray. “‘Forgive our sins as we forgive,’ You taught us, Lord to pray,
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.
Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.”
Verses 1 & 4 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”**

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” Matthew 5:7

The beatitudes, found in Matthew’s sermon on the mount, make it clear that those who are to receive God’s blessing are those who can share compassion or forgiveness towards someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm. That is mercy.

We should be grateful that because God loved us so, he showed us grace, when judgement and punishment should have ruled the day. We have been shown mercy that overflows with love. Can we not do the same?

Say or sing.

**“There’s a wideness in God’s mercy Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in His justice Which is more than liberty.
If our love were but more simple, We should take Him at his word;
And our lives would be illumined By the presence of our Lord.”**

FIRDAY, APRIL 1

**“I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.”
1 John 2:12**

We adults, who have been Christians all our lives, often resent being told we are “little children.” Yet, Jesus told his disciples that all must become like little children to enter the Kingdom of God.

Children forgive so easily. And they quickly believe that they are forgiven because they trust the adults in their lives to follow their words with actions.

As we mature, we become jaded and are not as quick to forgive. John’s first letter reminds us we are “little children” in God’s eyes and as such we are called to remember that God in Jesus has forgiven us all and we are called to forgive others.

Say or sing.

**“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.”**

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.” Proverbs 17:9

We know of situations in families where a promise broken, a lie told, a hurtful word said has caused a rift which continues for years because the fault was so painful that forgiveness could not be offered. However, we are called to love by forgiving, as difficult as it may be. The relationship may not be as it was before the wrong was committed. Healing without forgiveness cannot occur.

Jesus did not allow us to be forever separated from our God because of our faults. Are we so arrogant as to deny forgiveness to those that we claim we love?

**Pray. “And they will know that we are our Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they will know that we are Christians by our love.”**