

Don't Be A Cat

Matthew 18

Sermon by Rick Myatt

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Matthew 18:1-5

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*” ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.



Matthew 18:6-8

⁶ “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! ⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.



Matthew 18:9-13

“⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. ¹⁰ See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

Matthew 18:14-17

¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:18-22

¹⁸ *“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* ¹⁹ *“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”* ²⁰ *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”* ²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, *“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”*

Matthew 18:23-27

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Matthew 18:28-31

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.^[i] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

Matthew 18:32-35

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.


³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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- Become A Kid



Luke 9:46

⁴⁶ An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.





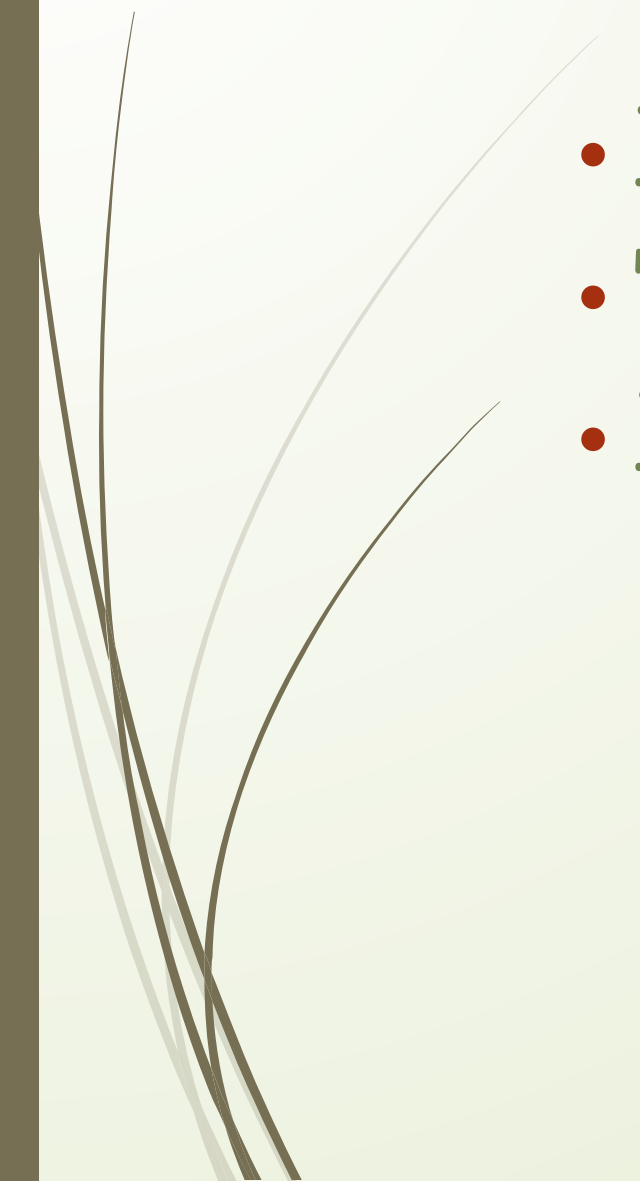
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- Become A Kid
 - The Kids Are Precious



1 Corinthians 1:26

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.



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- Become A Kid
 - The Kids Are Precious
 - Forgiving Is Imperative



Implications

- Forgiveness Is Not Deserved
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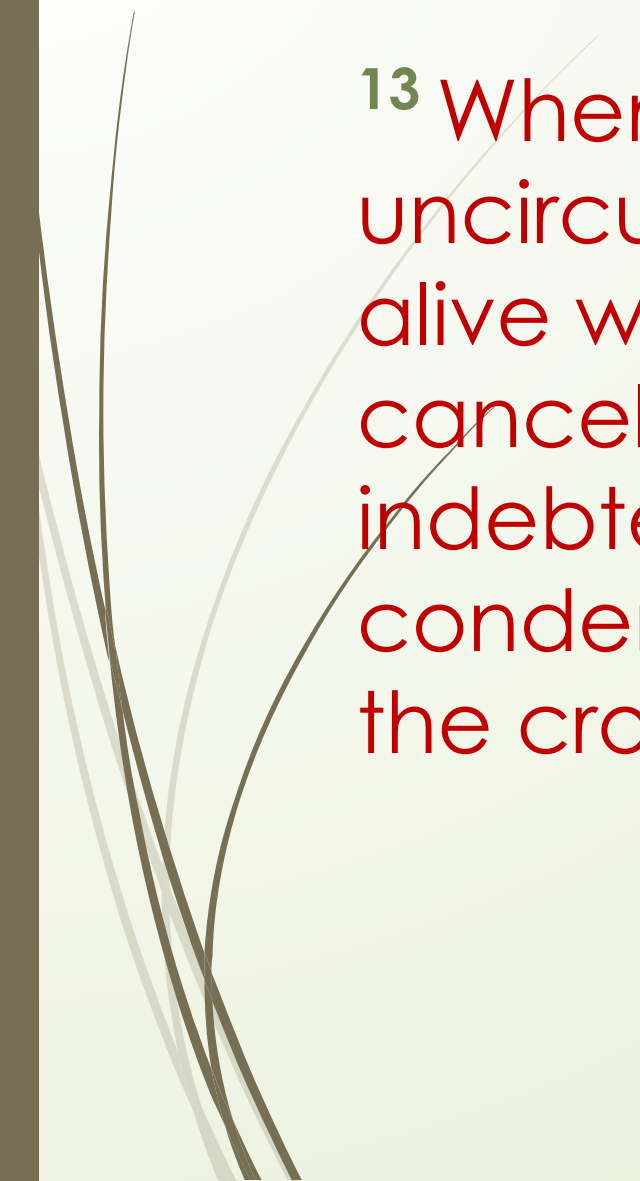
Colossians 2:11-12

¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.



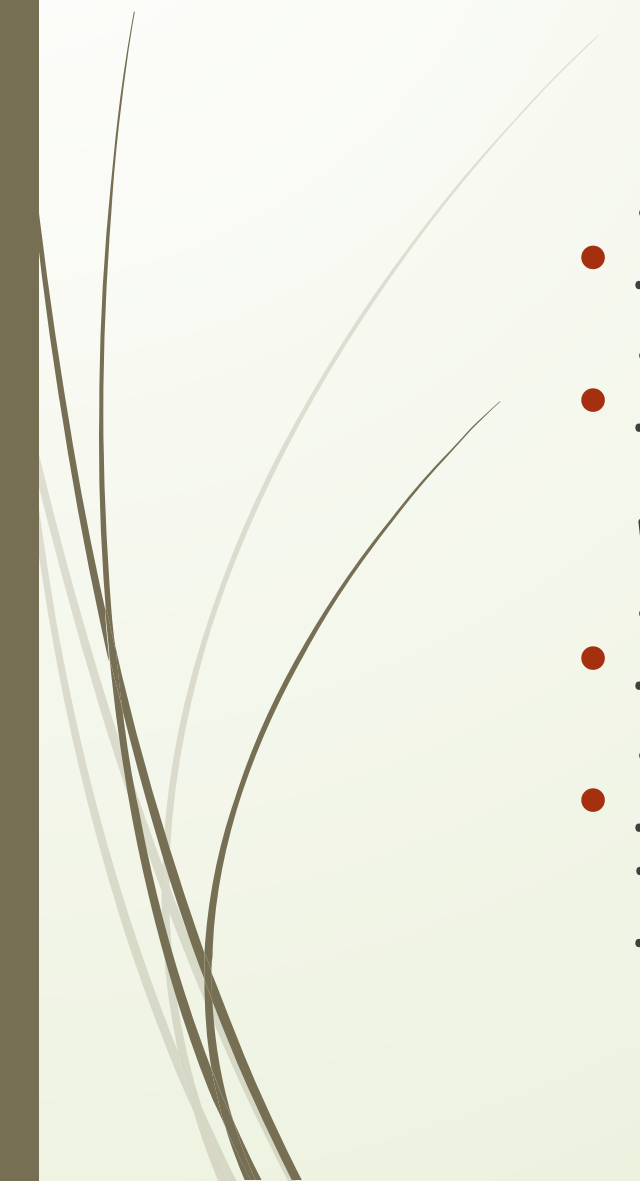
Colossians 2:13-14

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.






Implications

- Forgiveness Is Not Deserved
 - Forgiving Always Cost Something
 - Forgiving Is A Choice
 - Forgiving Is An Inevitable Product of Grace
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Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.





Implications

- Forgiveness Is Not Deserved
 - Forgiving Always Cost Something
 - Forgiving Is A Choice
 - Forgiving Is An Inevitable Product of Grace
 - Lack Of Forgiving Is Deadly
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