

Theme for 2018

WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD & WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)



This Week’s Thought – February 25, 2018

“But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.” Genesis 33:4 (NIV)

Just like the prodigal son (Jesus describes in Luke 15) became broken and repentant, so does Jacob in this passage. As the loving father (in Luke 15) forgives, embraces, and weeps with the son, so Esau does with Jacob. It is a beautiful, beautiful picture of forgiveness. Deception was overcome by forgiveness. Stealing was overcome by forgiveness. Hurt was overcome by forgiveness. Anger was overcome by forgiveness. Pride was overcome by forgiveness.

Running away was overcome by forgiveness. Coming back together was facilitated by forgiveness. Forgiveness through Christ and toward each other is the great reconciler. Otherwise, we live life like most miserable men and women, still blaming others and lamenting over injustice inflicted on us and those we love. It is not fair because life hurts our idealism and optimism; however, to be healed is to forgive. So how do we forgive?

Forgiveness begins with an encounter with God, as the originator of forgiveness embraces us. He is the One with the limitless capacity to forgive. His forgiveness engulfs us with ability, a mandate, and a reservoir of forgiveness. Because He has thoroughly forgiven us through Christ, we can forgive others for Christ’s sake. It is the essence of being a Christian. If you are a Christian, you forgive. So why is forgiveness hard?

One reason is our focus is still on our needs and hurts, but God is calling us to forgive. It is from a faithful stance of loving Him and loving people. When you choose to live by faith, you forgive.

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When you forgive, you trust that God is working to make you and others more like Jesus. Begin today; let God embrace you, you embrace another, and then watch forgiveness do its work.

The Bible says, “*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*” (James 5:16)

Application: This week, inside of the forty-day period before ‘Easter/Resurrection’ Sunday called the ‘Lenten Season’, ask yourself: “Whom can I forgive today and begin the process of healing?”

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Lord Jesus, You have commanded me and given me grace to forgive and to love others, as You have loved and forgiven me. As I do this, I will abide in You, and You in me. Otherwise I cannot bear fruit. Apart from You I can do nothing. You have made a way for me. You have poured out Your love in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and I can remain in Your love. I thank You that through You I can bear much fruit. Work in me to will and to do Your will, which is to walk in love and obey Your Word, so that I can abide in Your love and be able to love my family, my friends and even my enemies as Your friend. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King