

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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15th Sunday after Pentecost
13 September 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Genesis 50:15–21 / Psalm 103:1–12 / Romans 14:1–12 / Matthew 18:21–35

Sermon Title: Forgive Others as God has Forgiven You
Sermon Text: Matthew 18:21-35

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ.” (2 Tim. 1:2) Amen.

Read Matthew 18:21-27

So here we have a situation. It’s actually a pretty common situation. A man owes his boss a large sum of money. In this account, the amount of money he owes is so great that he could not possibly pay it all back in a lifetime.

The monetary unit here is called a “talent.” It was worth about 20 years’ wages for a worker. The man owed his boss 10,000 talents—that means he would have to work 200,000 years to pay back what he owes. In this lesson, the outrageous amount that is owed is used to highlight what happens later.

The man owes so much money, and his boss is ready to settle his accounts. The boss knows that his worker owes him so much money, and that he probably can’t pay it back. ²⁴ *When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.”*

The man’s boss is ready to settle his accounts, and he needs this worker to pay what he owes. The worker knows that he won’t ever be able to repay his loan, and now realizes that he’s in trouble. ²⁶ *So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’*

And then the man’s boss did something unthinkable. ²⁷ *And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.”* WHAT!?!?! The boss forgave this huge debt that he was owed simply because his worker pleaded with him—*‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’*

That’s amazing! If you owed your boss such a huge amount of money, it would seem unthinkable for your boss to forgive such a huge debt. And why is that amazing? What if the worker owed just \$10? Would it seem remarkable that the boss forgave such a small debt? Maybe not.

And yet, what did God our Heavenly Father do for you? You and I were born into sin, and in sin did our mothers conceive us. God gave us the Ten Commandments so, as Jesus says, we can “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect”

But no one is perfect. That is, no one can live exactly the way God desires. The Law is too great. It is impossible to live exactly the way God desires. We owe God a huge debt, because of our sins, and we can never repay God what we owe him. And yet, God in his mercy, FORGAVE US, because Jesus, his only-begotten Son, took your place on the cross.

So let’s hear the rest of this account about the servant owing his boss a huge sum of money. ²⁸ *But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’*

Now, this worker goes out and harasses a fellow worker, who owes him a little bit of money. The second worker pleads: *‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’* Sadly, though, the first worker, ignores this request.

Have you ever been in a situation in which you were at the mercy of someone else? Then, later in the day, you find yourself in a situation in which someone else is at your mercy? This is what’s going on here. Think about this situation for a moment. When you are the mercy of someone else, do you feel happy? Nervous? Like you’re being put in your place? Maybe even belittled? No one likes being in that situation, and yet it happens more often than you might think.

The first worker has no mercy—is unwilling to forgive—the second worker. ³⁰ *He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.* ³¹ *When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.”*

The first worker has no mercy on the second worker. This first worker, who had just earlier that day been forgiven a huge debt that he owed, took drastic action against his coworker. Now, imagine that you’re in the position of this first worker. Now, you are in a situation in which someone else owes you some money, and you use your position and authority for evil.

Even though the second worker pleads: *‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’* You feel powerful and use your authority to belittle and degrade your coworker. In other words, you don’t love your neighbor as yourself.

Do you expect God to treat you the same way? Just earlier we talked about how God forgave the huge debt that you owe—the debt of sin—a debt you could never repay. And then, you go on your way, and find that person, who owes you \$10 and you harass that person to try and get the money owed you.

This is exactly what Jesus is talking about in First John chapter 4: *“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.* ²¹ *And this commandment we have from him whoever loves God must also love his brother.”* (1 John 4:20-21)

Do you think it’s fair that you come to God and ask for forgiveness, and then go your way and continue to hate your brother in Christ? Jesus tells us that if we don’t forgive our brother or sister in Christ, then God won’t forgive you.

And yet, forgiveness is a tough thing to do. Our sinful nature hates all things that we’re not supposed to do. Our sinful nature wants to be the king of the universe. Our sinful nature wants to lord it over other people when we have the chance.

And why is that a common response? Why does it seem so hard to forgive someone when they ask for forgiveness? Why is it hard to let go of your own rights—what you are allegedly owed—and forgive the other person?

¹⁴ *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,* ¹⁵ *but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* (Matthew 6:14-15)

I have heard too many people say that they won’t ever forgive someone for something that they experienced from another person. I often think, how sad it is that some people make it a fist-clenching, self-imposed motto for the rest of their lives.

Why do you want to spend the rest of your life being angry at someone for how they wronged you? If you don’t want to be angry about the situation, then try and talk to the person. That’s just what we talked about last Sunday. Reread Matthew 18 verses 15-20 to refresh your memory of how to deal with someone, who has sinned against you.

Let’s see how things ended for this man, who would not forgive his coworker. ³² *Then his master summoned [the first worker] and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.* ³³ *And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’* ³⁴ *And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.* ³⁵ *So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”* (Matthew 18:21-35)

So now the first worker, who briefly used his authority over someone else, has now been bitten in the rear end by his own doing. The boss found out what the first worker had done to a fellow co-worker. The boss was very angry at the first worker. This first worker was the same man, who the boss had just earlier forgiven him a huge debt that he owed the boss.

But now we see how this first worker got what he dished out. It would seem that this first worker wanted to be treated badly. This is the Golden Rule in Matthew 7 verse 12: *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matthew 7:12)

Do you want other people to treat you badly? Do you want other people to be angry at you for the rest of your life? You can’t change people’s attitudes, but you can change your own attitude, by the work of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you.

How do you make changes in your attitude? Pray. Confess your sins to God and then receive his glorious forgiveness. Then, pray again and ask God to help you to live according to the Ten Commandments—love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

³² Then his master summoned [the first worker] and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.’ (Matthew 18:21-35)

The first worker experienced a wonderful thing one day when his boss forgave a huge debt that he owed. Sadly, though, that same guy went out and found a fellow co-worker, who owed him a little money, and used his authority over this coworker and harassed him by having him thrown in jail.

Then, the boss found out what the first worker had done, and he basically undid his forgiveness. The boss was so angry—as well you might be, too—that the first worker had no mercy—did not forgive his coworker. ³⁵ *So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.*”

If you do not forgive your brother from you heart, then God will not forgive you. Does that mean anything to you? Does it matter if God doesn't forgive you? Maybe temporarily, it doesn't mean anything to you. But in the long run, God NOT forgiving you is a bad thing.

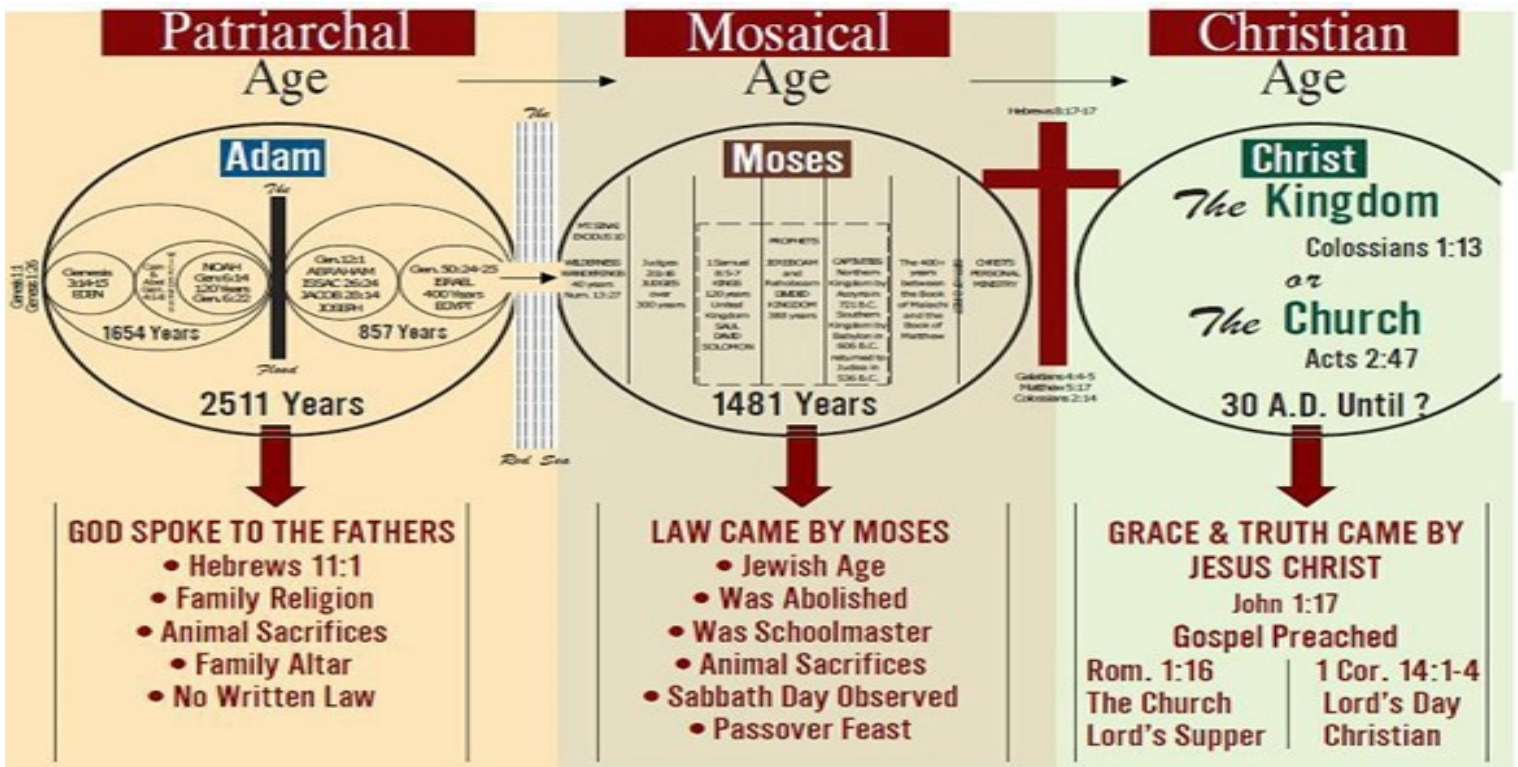
What makes you think that if you continue to hold a grudge against someone else, who has wronged you, God will still look favorably on you? That's not what Jesus tells us: ¹⁴*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,* ¹⁵*but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*" (Matthew 6:14-15)

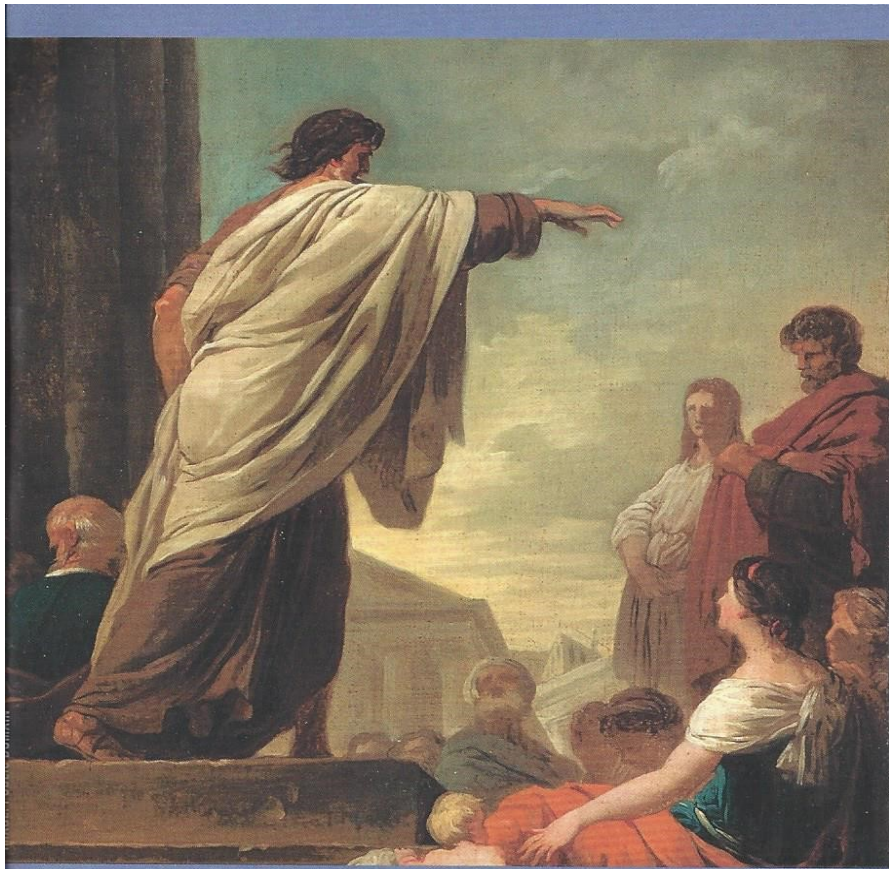
God desires that you work on restoring any broken relationships. This is what God our Heavenly Father did for you and me and for all people. He restored the broken relationship between him and us by allowing Jesus to suffer and die FOR YOU and FOR ME! Because it is Jesus, who alone is able to fulfill God's Law completely.

It is God, who is able to restore the relationship that was broken back when our first parents—Adam and Eve—sinned against God. Since that time, all men, women and children have been cursed. And yet, God our loving Heavenly Father desperately wants things to be different.

God wants you to be with him in heaven for all eternity. God wants to be in constant communion—constant fellowship—with him and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This is the Gospel—the Good News—that Jesus restored the relationship between us and God our Heavenly Father. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen.

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.





Civility AND Conviction

by **Weslie Odom**

CHRISTIANS OFTEN LOOK to St. Paul's well-known speech on the Areopagus for insights into sharing the good news of Christ, but there is more to be found there. Included in the text are helpful insights for conversing with those with whom we disagree on matters of faith and life.

Once you have answered the questions to the right, continue reading below.

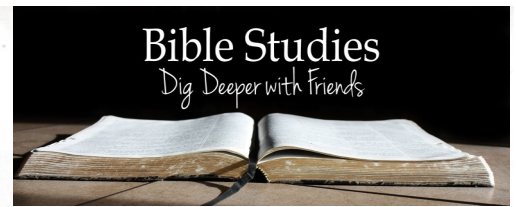
Sometimes we have to say direct things, and we ought not be hesitant or ashamed to do so. We should not be surprised if the truth of God's Word is met with scoffing from time to time. God grant that this not deter us or tempt us to water down how we speak of those things that concern our faith toward God and our love for our neighbor. Finally, let us pray that God grant us the courage to engage in such conversations with a civility that mirrors our conviction and zeal for the truth. **LW**



The Rev. Weslie Odom serves as pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington, Texas.



> FIND THE ANSWERS AND INDEPTH DISCUSSION
on kfuo.org/witness.



1. Read Acts 17:16. What "provokes" Paul's spirit? Have you also been provoked by false idols?

2. Read Acts 17:17. How does Paul address what he perceives? How does this help inform how you might react to idolatry?

3. Read Acts 17:18. What was the primary topic of Paul's teaching? How does the eternal importance of this subject direct your approach in related conversations?

4. Read Acts 17:22. Although Paul knows he has vastly different beliefs than the "men of Athens," does he regard them harshly or respectfully?

5. Read Acts 17:23–31. In his speech, does Paul speak as if the differences between the Athenians and himself are of little importance? Would it have been helpful for him to give the impression they were?

6. Does Paul avoid dealing with difficult topics? Which difficult topics do you see addressed? How might this encourage you as you engage in difficult topics?

7. Read Acts 17:32. How do some of the listeners respond to Paul's speech? How might it prepare you for such conversations?

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO FILL UP WITH JESUS

Bible Study has started at 10:45 am in the church basement. Everyone is welcome to come. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Pastor LaBoube will be leading us through the scriptures teaching us more about Jesus. Come with questions and together with Jesus we will find the answers.

School Supplies: As we return to church, children return to school. We will be collecting school supplies again this year. It will be for one month. If you can help there is a list and container in the narthex. If you can't shop contact Joan Chandler at 882-2560 or call the church office at 881-2243 and someone will do it for you. God Bless your giving hearts. **The Outreach Board**



BIBLE LEARNING TIME: All members are encouraged to attend especially board members and other leaders. How can you lead if you don't know what God and Jesus says in His Word? We will begin with the book of Luke. We start September 20th in the church basement. Who was Luke? How did he know Jesus? Where was he from? What was his profession? Why was he so much like us?

LIST OF AREA POW-MIA'S Please remember the families in your prayers.

WWII	Town	Missing Since
Herman C. Kiepe	Ute	3/28/44
Lyle W. Stepanek	Dow City	3/19/44

VIETNAM	Town	Missing Since
Robert F. Rex	Odebolt	03/07/69
Donald Sparks	Carroll	06/17/69
Daniel W. Thomas	Danbury	07/06/71

KOREA	Town	Missing Since
James Leslie Houston		02/14/51
Freeman D. Satterlee		05/14/52

	<u>WWI</u>	<u>Korean War</u>	<u>Cold War</u>	<u>Vietnam War</u>	<u>Iraq & Other Conflicts</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total MIA	73,538	7,881	126	1,641	6	83,192

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW-MIA FAMILIES:

Some families are still waiting for closure. They need our prayers. For more information go to; http://www.dtic.mill/dpmo/summary_statistics/

The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of Sept. each year.

For more information go to; <https://www.pow-miafamilies.org/member-of-americans-still-missing-and-unaccounted-for-by-state.html>

Iowa has 24 the highest state is California which has 162.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Roger Albers	Sep 14, 1941	Sep 14, 1941
Kirk Bridegeman	Sep 30, 2018	Sep 30, 2018
James Brodersen	Sep 11, 1939	Sep 11, 1939
Autumn Brodersen	Sep 17, 2006	Sep 17, 2006
Calvin Bruhn	Sep 23, 1984	Sep 23, 1984
John Fick	Sep 18, 1932	Sep 18, 1932
Fred Fletcher	Sep 7, 1988	Sep 7, 1988
Sarah Goslar	Sep 4, 1983	Sep 4, 1983
Joseph Hogan	Sep 16, 1961	Sep 16, 1961
Richard Johnson	Sep 9, 1934	Sep 9, 1934
Matt Kelm	Sep 14, 1986	Sep 14, 1986
Caden Scheer	Sep 13, 2009	Sep 13, 2009
Gary Thies	Sep, 1942	Sep, 1942
Weber, Benjamin	Sep.10,1995	Sep 10, 1995
Roxie Wray	Sep 20, 1958	Sep 20, 1958
Shirley Scoles	Sep. 25, 1943	Sep. 25, 1943

We are listing
Baptismal birthdays
to remember and
celebrate the day we were
adopted into the family of
God
through the washing of the
Holy Spirit.

BIRTHDAYS

Boyle	Shelly	Sep 17, 1962
Bretthauer	Crystal	Sep 6, 1956
Brodersen	Frances	Sep 27, 1945
Bruhn	Ruth	Sep 25, 1932 87
Bruhn	Calvin	Sep 1, 1984
Bruhn	Alan	Sep 15, 1960
Erlemeier	Shari	Sep 25, 1962
Fletcher	Gloria	Sep 16, 1955
Koithan	George	Sep 2, 1932 87
Jahn	Pam	Sep 16, 1948
Miller	Jacob	Sep 23, 1995

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Gavin and Kathleen Nevins 54 yrs. Sep 3, 1966

If your birthday or baptism birthday of you any church member you know doesn't appear on the list – it is because we don't have it on file. Please contact the church office so this information can be added to our information data.

It is important that all information on our church members be kept updated – including birthday, baptism, confirmation, marriage, children and change of address. Please keep the office updated

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING (SUNDAY, (09-06-20)	
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (09-06-20)	44
SUNDAY COMMUNED	43
SUNDAY CHILDREN IN CHURCH	1
CHURCH UTILITIES	
VISITORS	1
BIBLE CLASS	10

	<u>Week of Schedule 09-14- to 09-20</u>
Mon	Pastor's Family Day
Tue	Pastoral Workshop
Wed	Pastoral Workshop Helping Hands 1-4 pm
Sun.	9:30 am Worship w Holy Communion / Bible Class 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am
Sun.	9:30 am Worship / Bible Class 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am

<u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u>	Need a ride to a Dr's appt	Need of a visit
Before going to hospital	Address or name changes	Birth of your baby
Private communion	Entering armed services	Making wedding plans
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church	Death in the family	



Please continue to pray for our church leaders.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." **Romans 12:12**

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

PRAYER WARRIORS— The prayer warriors desire to hear from you as to how they can pray for you. We have 14 prayer warriors. We welcome more men and women to join us. if you need prayer call Alice Miller phone number 712-880-2380.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns needing our prayers. Please call the church office if you want to be added to this list for any reason, thank you.

Nazaria Kaderabek	Bud Dose	Kevin Dose	Selma Schrader	Elnora Dose
Carol Dose	John Fick			

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Kim Whitton** (Marilyn & Duane Hamann daughter); **Richard Swain**, neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen; **Lynette Dobrovolsky** neighbor of Karen and Jeff Krusen

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY Triston Twedt, Ryan Trucke, Jackie Cardwell

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs. Jun 2, 1934
Main Street Apartments
516 Main Street Apt 2
Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 88 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932
1726 Marcella Heights
Carroll, IA 51040

Elnora Dose 85 yrs. May 11, 1935
Embassy Rehab & Care Center
206 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933
Ring Street
Mapleton IA 51034

****Myrna Gosch** 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941
Pleasant View Care Center
200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
Whiting, IA 51063

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939
31153 Juinter Ave
Hinton, IA 51024

** indicates a new address

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928
Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
404 1st St.
Battle Creek, IA 51006

Evelyn Christiansen 100 yrs. Jul 4, 1920
4204 SE. 29th Ave.
Amarillo, TX 79103 % Joan Valdez

Carol Dose 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934
Sunrise Ave.
Maple Heights Nursing Home

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded

Depression can be incredibly isolating. The new landscape we are living in because of the pandemic can also be incredibly isolating. Those of us who struggle with depression now have to deal with the additional challenges of finding support in this strange new world. Besides doctors and therapists, we also need the support of a community—friends, family, and neighbors we can reach out to, and who reach out to us.

Are you afraid you're too much?

There is a quote that I see shared often, "You will be too much for some people. Those are not your people." I think there's some truth in that. Some people can't truly accept us for who we are, and so it's time for us to move on. But I actually think some of the people for whom we're too much may be our people—they just can't be our only people.

We can go to some people for a certain kind of support, and others for another. Or we can split the support we need—as well as the support we can offer—between more than one person. As Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*"

Can you even know what you need?

Depression complicates this, though, for several reasons. You can't always think clearly enough to articulate your needs or sort out what you need from whom. And, of course, you don't know what you need, really, especially at first. You don't know what people could do to help, you just wish somebody would do something.

Sometimes even when you're able to identify and name what you need, the people around you are not able to offer it to you. And when you're knocked out, exhausted from fighting the beast of depression every moment of every day, it's often impossible to even take a shower, much less make new friends.

Sometimes, too, your people are trying to tell you what they can offer, but all you can hear is rejection. They may be simply telling you their own needs and boundaries, but what you hear is that you are too much for them, and probably for anyone. Depression weaves scraps of truth into lies so convincingly.

Henri Nouwen wrote a lot about his own feelings of loneliness and rejection, particularly when a close friend had to set boundaries with him. He wrote to himself: "You keep listening to those who seem to reject you. But they never speak about you. They speak about their own limitations. They confess their poverty in the face of your needs and desires. They simply ask for your compassion. They do not say that you are bad, ugly, or despicable. They say only that you are asking for something they cannot give."¹

When to use your lifelines

As I've recovered from major depression and rebuilt my support system, I've begun thinking of my various friends and family as lifelines. In the TV game show, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, contestants answer questions of increasing difficulty to earn increasingly more money. If they do not know the answer, or do not feel confident in their response, they can use one of their three lifelines: Ask the audience, 50:50, or phone a friend. Each lifeline has different strategic benefits, and since they can only use each one once, they must decide which question best fits with each lifeline.

I often think of my various friends and communities in this way. I don't have one friend that I can go to with every emotion, question, desire, or need—I don't think it is even healthy to ask another person to bear that much for me. But I know I can vent about chronic illness to Matteo and he will understand, or text Gina she will immediately pray for me, or message Susi and she will be ready to offer her limited free time for a lunch date. In other words, I've built a team.

Depression makes you feel alone, and rejection, or felt-rejection, from friends can intensify this feeling. But maybe you have more friends than you realize. Maybe you just have been asking the wrong people for the wrong things.

Someone who would be overwhelmed by a phone call at 3:00 a.m. may be happy and grateful to respond to a daytime text for prayer or to swing by with a bag of groceries. Another person may feel overwhelmed at the thought of buying groceries but goes to bed late anyway and would be glad to talk. And for another person, just knowing you are there and understand what they're going through might make you a vital part of their own team.

Write a list of the people who are potential lifelines, and what they have offered, or might offer, in support. Then write a list of your own needs, and consider asking friends if they can help. Write, also, one or two things that you might be able to offer others, even if they seem small.

Adapted from *The Long Night* by Jessica Kantrowitz, copyright © 2020 Fortress Press. Reproduced by permission.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey through Anguish to Freedom*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1998.



504 Walnut
Mapleton, IA 51034

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE:

LET'S STAY CONNECTED: St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am e very Sunday am at the church.

Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton- Our services at 9 am every Sunday

website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org – Our services posted weekly

Mission Central... www.missioncentral.us

Lutheran Family Service: www.lfsiowa.org

WEB SITES: Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org

Camp Okoboji – www.campokoboji.org

“THY STRONG WORD” is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM)

“THE LUTHERAN HOUR” can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN-FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page.



Thank You Jesus for being our true friend always. You proved your love and friendship to us by sacrificing your life for us. Assure us that we can always come to You with our hurts. In your precious name, Amen