

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Mike Wickwar his brother's health issues; Sandra - heart surgery, Bob - Cancer, PJ - Success in board exam.
- ◆ Keasha Marescot Mom Barbara - Dementia
- ◆ Joey Godin stomach issues
- ◆ Lenny's Sister husband passed away
- ◆ Gabby Little personal & family health issue
- ◆ Brad & Brenda health & healing
- ◆ Linda Barnes Ongoing Health Issues
- ◆ Marion Goodwin Ongoing health issues
- ◆ Godin Family health, SIL Alzheimers
- ◆ Mary McVicar chronic kidney disease
- ◆ Glory Parker family health, traveling
- ◆ Lisa Carter's Friends Jenn & Jayne battling health and life issues
- ◆ Sampson Family health & family healing
- ◆ Our Congregation

Elders

Brad Shaw (207)878-4124
Tony Lemay (207)651-3369
Dennis Godin (207)651-3588

Deacons

John Carter (207)229-8516
Matt Sampson (207)251-3030

Ministry Leaders & Staff

Education...Antonio Balsamo.....(207)286-0514
Youth.....Angel Velez.....(207)730-9889
Worship.....Abe Damuth.....(207)608-1784
BuildingJoe Romano.....(207)281-3929
GroundsLenny Spano.....(207)569-8800
Fellowship.....Matt Sampson....(207)251-3030
Finance.....John Carter.....(207)229-8516
Benevolence...John Carter.....(207)229-8516
Secretary.....Mike Wickwar.....(207)432-2272

Ladies Ministry

Debbie Godin (207)286-4821
Barbara Lemay (207)850-0084

Order of Worship

Song - 4 To God Be The Glory

Announcements - Shepherd

Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw

Song - 144 O Worship The King

Song - 334 Tis Midnight And On Olive's Brow

Lord's Supper - John Marescot, Clifford Parker, James Butler

Song - 83 God Is So Good

Contribution

Song - 453 Love Lifted Me

Prayer - Angel Velez

Song - 452 Standing On The Promises

Scripture Reading - Jon Erickson

Text - Revelation 1:5b-8

Lesson - Dennis Godin

Never Ending Mercy

Lesson Text: *Matthew 18:21-35*

Song - 458 Redeemed

Closing Prayer - Tony Lemay

Song Leader - Antonio Balsamo

Greeter - Brenda Butler

Communion Prep - Jessica Damuth

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 48

Contribution: \$1,905.95

*Live the Gospel at all times;
When opportunity is there...
Share then hope you have!*

**THE BIDDEFORD
CHURCH OF CHRIST
WELCOMES YOU!**



Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

JULY 21, 2019

Biddeford Church of Christ

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Welcome Visitors

We here at the Biddeford Church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the Bible our principle guide for living.

This Week's Events

Today 7/21
Life Groups

Tuesday 7/23
Singing

Birthdays
Mike Wickwar 7/26
Linda Barnes 7/27
Ian Sampson 7/28
Lenny Spano 7/28

Anniversaries
Brad & Brenda Shaw 7/27

Next Week's Service Schedule

Song Leader - Robert Balsamo
Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw
Lord's Supper - Matthew Sampson,
TJ Balsamo, Lenny Spano
Prayer - Mike Wickwar
Scripture Reading - Abe Damuth
Greeter - Jessica Damuth
Communion Prep - Brenda Butler

Never Ending Mercy

Our theme verse has within it so many encouraging thoughts, none though as strong as these words, "His mercies never come to an end..." Mercy; that is, God not giving mankind what he deserves, is at the very core of all we do as Christians. If there is one thing mankind could extend to one another lately, is mercy. Not retaliating in kind, being "slow to speak, slow to wrath" and a little more willing to be "swift to hear" (James 1:19).

*Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice,
Lord, do not charge them with this sin.
Acts 7:60*

Many of us are familiar with the story of Stephen, one of the early "gospel preachers" of the new found church. Some didn't like his message and stirred up trouble for him (Acts 6:8-15). Brought before the council, he is provided the chance to speak and does so, challenging his hearers, those who should have been prepared for the Messiah, yet rejected Him and His message of hope. So enraged, they took Stephen out and stoned him to death, but not until he said those words mentioned above. Stephen's last act of faith was to extend mercy to his accusers, to those taking his life.

I don't expect any of us to find ourselves in such a situation, but that does not mean we won't be challenged to extend mercy to those around us. How did Stephen muster up the spiritual strength to utter such words, especially given the situation? I believe Jesus reveals the "how" in the parable of the unforgiving servant found in Matthew 18:21-35. First, there is need to be aware of our debt towards the Master as seen in the first servant. He owed his master 10,000 talents (about 60,000,000 denarii). A denarii, was a day's wages back then, so the debt was impossible to pay back. The master demands payment,

but the servant pleads for mercy. "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt" (Matthew 18:27). Imagine the relief! With renewed life, the servant goes out only to find a fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii. Mercy received sets the stage for mercy being given...right? Not necessarily. Unchanged by what was freely given to him, he demands payment from his fellow servant. Unmoved by his plea for mercy, he "threw him into prison till he should pay the debt" (Matthew 18:30). Once his master heard of this, he became angry and "delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him" (Matthew 18:34).

*So My heavenly Father also will do
to you if each of you,
if from his heart, does not forgive his brother
his trespasses.
Matthew 18:35*

How did Stephen extend so much mercy towards those taking his life? I believe part of the answer is found in the mercy extended to him through Christ. He knew his debt was paid and he was not deserving of it. That empowered him to offer it to others equally in need of it. How many of us lock people up in the prison of our mind, burdened with the debt of their sinful behavior towards us? God calls for us to extend mercy, be forgiving, like He has been towards us. His mercies never come to an end, in part, because we as His disciples offer it to others. Who in your life is in need of your mercy?

Dennis
Sermon Notes
