

I LOVE YOU MORE

Matthew 18: 21 -35

Monday, March 5, 2018, 17th Day of Lent

Matthew 18: 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.

Reading these verses, it sounds like it's all about forgiveness. Peter asks Jesus how many times must he forgive his brother. And Jesus responds with the story of the king who forgave his servant a huge debt. But the servant did not forgive his fellow servant. For me, the passage is about love. Verse 35 says we must forgive from the heart. That requires a selfless love that looks past our personal hurt at being wronged. It requires "us" to love "you" more than we love ourselves. I was reminded of this by my 3 1/2 yr. old granddaughter during a Facetime conversation. I told her, "I love you." She responded, "I love you more." Then I replied, "I love You more." She meant to say, "I love you more than you love me." But what she actually said was, "I love you more than me."

That's the kind of love Jesus showed us. He loved us more than himself. He denied himself, and took on our sins out of his love for us. A selfless love that also proves that God does, indeed, love us MORE than we love God. It's a heartfelt love that forgives us time and time again. Lent offers us a time to reflect on our actions and on the God's actions towards us.

Prayer: Lord, as I struggle to forgive with my heart, and not just with my words, grow my love for you and for others. Amen

Laura Fygetakes, First UMC, Beckley

lwvfrog604@gmail.com