

Bless
the Lord, O my soul.

**O LORD MY GOD,
THOU ART VERY GREAT;
THOU ART CLOTHED
WITH HONOUR AND MAJESTY.**

(Psalms 104:1 KJV)

Wake Union Baptist Church

*"Where the good news of Jesus Christ
is proclaimed in truth and love"*

THE LORD'S DAY

April 11, 2021

Call to Worship *He Keeps Me Singing (Medley)* 425

Invocation

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Reading **Psalm 32**

Hymn *Jesus Paid It All* 134

Morning Prayer

Hymn *He Paid a Debt*

Offertory Prayer

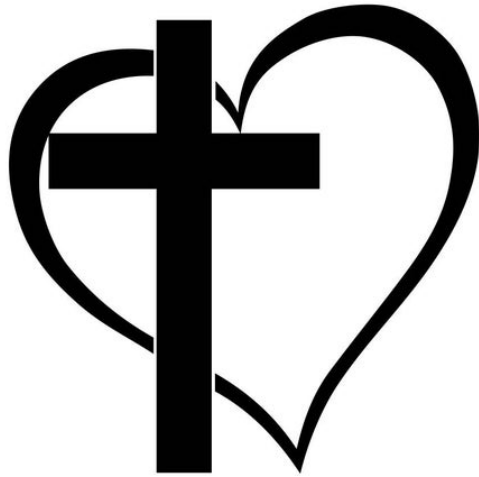
Doxology *Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow* 253

Hymn *"Forgive our sins
as we forgive"*

Sermon **POWERFUL FORGIVENESS** Pastor Joel
 Matthew 18:21-35

Invitation *At the Cross* 139

Benediction



How can we experience God's forgiveness?

BIBLE READING: Psalm 51:1–19 (Key verse: 3)

Experiencing God's forgiveness comes through confession and repentance. This psalm was David's written confession to God after a particularly sinful episode in his life. David was truly sorry for his adultery with Bathsheba and for murdering her husband to cover it up. He knew that his actions had hurt many people. But as David repented, God mercifully forgave him. No sin is too great to be forgiven! Do you feel that you could never come close to God because you have done something terrible? God can and will forgive you of any sin. While God forgives us, however, He does not always erase the natural consequences of our sin—David's life and family were never the same as a result of what he had done (see 2 Samuel 12:1–23).

BIBLE READING: John 20:19–31 (Key verse: 23)

We can be confident that our sins have been forgiven in Christ. Jesus was giving the disciples their Spirit-powered and Spirit-guided mission—to preach the Good News about Jesus so people's sins might be forgiven. The disciples did not have the power to forgive sins (only God can forgive sins), but Jesus gave them the privilege of telling new believers that their sins have been forgiven because they have accepted Jesus' message. All believers have this same privilege. We can announce the forgiveness of sin with certainty when we find repentance and faith.

BIBLE READING: John 13:31–38 (Key verse: 34)

God consistently forgives us each time we ask in repentance. John describes these few moments in clear detail. We can see that Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. He knew about Judas and about Peter, but He did not change the course of events, nor did He stop loving them. In the same way, Jesus knows that you do things that hurt Him—the very things that He went to the Cross for. Yet He still loves you and will forgive you whenever you ask for it.

BIBLE READING: 1 John 1:1–10 (Key verse: 9)

Forgiveness is complete even when confession isn't. Confession of our sin to God frees us to enjoy fellowship with Him. It should ease our consciences and lighten our cares. But some Christians do not understand how it works. They feel so guilty that they confess the same sins over and over; then they wonder if they might have forgotten something. Other Christians believe that God forgives them when they confess, but if they died with unconfessed sins, they would be forever lost. These Christians do not understand that God wants to forgive us.

He allowed His beloved Son to die so He could pardon us. When we come to Christ, He forgives all the sins we have committed or will ever commit. We don't need to confess the sins of the past all over again, and we don't need to fear that God will reject us if we don't keep our slate perfectly clean.

We should continue to confess our sins, but not because failure to do so will make us lose our salvation. Our relationship with Christ is secure. Instead, we should confess our sins so that we can enjoy maximum fellowship and joy with Him.

Why must we confess our sins? In admitting our sins and receiving Christ's cleansing, we are: (1) agreeing with God that our sin truly was sin and that we are willing to turn from it, (2) ensuring that we don't conceal our sins, and (3) recognizing our tendency to sin and relying on his power to overcome it.

Handbook of Bible Application

Prayer Request Updates

Our Nation – Protection, healing, and especially turning to the Lord Jesus.	Coronavirus victims and those grieving over the loss of loved ones.
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God's Forgiveness

1. Does God want me to say I'm sorry over and over again?

2. Does God keep track of all the things I've done wrong?

Answer the Questions above, by looking at the Scriptures below:

- Isaiah 43:25
- Isaiah 44:22
- Isaiah 55:7
- Jeremiah 5:1
- Jeremiah 31:34
- Jeremiah 33:8
- Ezekiel 36:25
- Micah 7:18
- Hebrews 8:12
- 1 John 1:9

After you're finished, read the text at the bottom of the page.

These verses say that God's forgiveness is a wonderful thing. You know how it is when someone is angry at you and keeps reminding you of it over and over again. God never does that. Our holy God has made the way through Jesus Christ for us to have our sin forgiven and forgotten. Take a minute to thank Him for that.

Sermon Points on Matthew 18

1. Limitless Forgiveness (21-27)

2. Lacking Faithfulness (28-30)

3. Losing Freedom (31-35)

Questions and Concepts

The parable of the unmerciful servant (18:21–35)

1. a. In 18:21 Peter asked Jesus a significant question regarding how we must forgive one another. How many times did Peter think was more than enough?

b. How many times did Jesus say we must forgive?

c. What does this number really suggest?

Meditate on how you have seen and tasted Christ's mercy in your life. What does your treatment of others say about you? Is there someone to whom you need to extend forgiveness and mercy?

2. a. To illustrate His teaching on forgiveness, Jesus told a story about a king's servant who became an object of the king's mercy. What was Jesus' point?

b. Do you think we take this point seriously? Explain.

3. How have you seen mercy shown to others? To you?

4. How can you practice mercy this week?