

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

I Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37



Forgiving and Forgiven. Object: A Church Offering Envelope

I'm sure you all know what this is. It is an offering envelope. Every week I bring an offering as a gift to God -- it is a very important part of our worship. Most of you have probably brought your offering today too. There are many places in the Bible that teach us the importance of presenting an offering to God, but the truth is that God is more interested in what's in our heart than He is in what's in our hand.

What did Jesus say we should do if we are not in a good relationship with someone? He said, "If you are presenting your offering to God and you remember that you have said something to hurt another person, leave your gift at the altar and go and ask forgiveness from that person. Then come back and offer your gift to God."

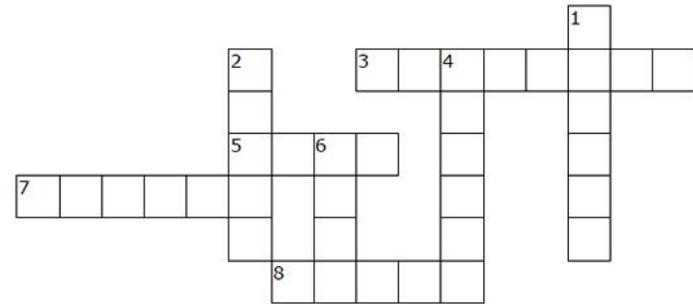
Before we give our offering today, perhaps we should ask ourselves a few questions. Have I been angry with someone this week? Have I had any arguments lately? Have I called someone a bad name? Have I said something about someone that wasn't true? If so, we should ask God to forgive us and we should go to the person we have hurt and ask them to forgive us. When we have done that, God will be pleased with our offering.

Heavenly Father, we sometimes say things in anger that hurt other people. Help us to guard against hateful and hurtful words and forgive us as we ask those we have hurt to forgive us as well. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. You are the light of the world. A city set upon a hill cannot be hid. Alleluia (Matt. 4:14)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. To decide if a person is guilty or innocent
- 5. A present that is given to another person
- 7. Killing of a person by another person
- 8. The place where gifts or sacrifices to God are made

DOWN

- 1. A group of human beings (men or women or children)
- 2. To be furious
- 4. To be at risk of being injured or harmed
- 6. A person who lacks good sense

DANGER	PEOPLE	ANGRY	MURDER
JUDGMENT	GIFT	ALTAR	FOOL

MONEY ENVELOPES: Give the child an envelope and bright markers and stickers, to decorate their own money giving envelope. Encourage the child to bring their offering back to church the next week. Remind the child to forgive others before bringing their money to the Lord.

FORGIVEN HEART: Give the child supplies to cut out a traced heart and tape or glue it onto a piece of construction paper. Cut out a cross and glue it in the middle of the heart. The child will write FORGIVEN on the cross, and decorate it.



I WILL BE KIND TO OTHERS, EVEN
WHEN THEY HURT ME.

