



## Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

February 16, 2020

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Good morning friends! Does anyone remember your first words? Probably not, but do you want to guess? (allow for answers) Was it Mama or Dada? I think that you probably learned the word “no” fairly quickly because parents often tell children “no” a lot! Is that true?

In our gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus is telling his disciples “No” about certain things. He tells the disciples “No” to being so angry that they can’t or won’t forgive a person. He tells them “No” to wanting something so badly that they stop being thankful for the things that they have. He tells them “No” to leaving friendships so that they can be friends with other people. He tells them “No” to trying to get people to believe their words. Instead, their yes should just be “yes” and their no should just be “no.” They should mean what they say and say what they mean.

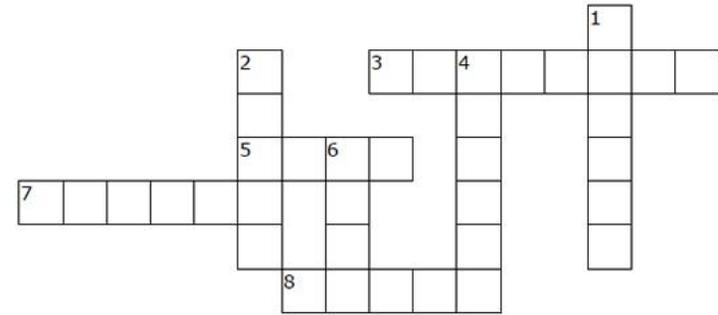
So...let me repeat what Jesus was teaching his disciples, but in the form of one long question: Would you want to learn from a wishy-washy person who calls you names, insults you, is so angry at you that they can't forgive you, stops being friends with you to be friends with other people, but then tries really hard to make you think that what they have to say is really important?

Would you even listen to that person? No way, right!? Which is why Jesus is telling his disciples to not do those things – because he wants people to be able to hear what the disciples have to say. Jesus wants the invitation to live God’s way to be heard, and Jesus extends that invitation to us.

By encouraging others with our words, by forgiving others, and by sharing God’s love with the people around us, we can show others what God’s way looks like -just like Jesus and the disciples did.

Loving God, help us to be true to our words of life, by loving your son, and following his examples to love others. Amen.

## 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

**Activity:** Jesus talks about forgiving people. This week, practice doing just that. If someone has hurt you but saying something mean or by stepping on your toe, or by eating your last potato chip, tell them that they have hurt your feelings (or your toe). Most people will say “I’m sorry”. Respond to them by saying “I forgive you”.

**Discussion Question:** This week’s activity is about feelings and forgiveness. It’s a good practice to tell others how we feel but we must be clear and set boundaries. (talk about boundaries with your family and/or your pastor) Why do you think it’s important to forgive people?

### Family Table Prayer for February:

God of Love and of my heart

You fill us with your light.

Help us to share your love with the world  
morning, noon, and night. Amen.

**February Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind.



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