

Luke 7:46-47—“You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

**God’s forgiveness to me**

(22) \_\_\_\_\_:  
 Isaiah 1:18—“Come now, and let us reason together,”  
 Says the LORD,  
 “Though your sins are like scarlet,  
 They shall be as white as snow;  
 Though they are red like crimson,  
 They shall be as wool.”

(23) \_\_\_\_\_:  
 Psalm 103:11-13—“For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
 So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;  
 12 As far as the east is from the west,  
 So far has He removed our transgressions from us.  
 13 As a father pities his children,  
 So the LORD pities those who fear Him.”

(24) \_\_\_\_\_:  
 Isaiah 43:25—“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”

(25) \_\_\_\_\_:  
 Ezekiel 18:22—“None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.”

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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Answers: 1-selfish 2-now 3-shallow 4-Paul 5-selfish 6-normally 7-fruit 8-Israel 9-influence 10-exposed 11-carefully 12-leased 13-profit 14-poor 15-shortcut 16-appearance 17-prayer 18-believing 19-keep 20-themes 21-understands 22-Cleansing 23-Separated 24-Forgotten 25-New Life

**First Family Church 7700 W. 143rd St, Overland Park, KS 66223 913-681-3341 www.ffc.org**



**Pastor Christian Newsome’s Sermonar  
 Wednesday, December 16, 2009  
 “Learning the Power of Forgiveness”  
 Message #17 in the series, “Your Miracle in the Mirror of Mark”**

**Four Symbols of Empty Faith**

**SYMBOL #1:** False Praise – v. 1-11

**Although the praise of the triumphal entry appeared sincere, the motive behind it was (1) \_\_\_\_\_.**

Mark 11:9-10—“Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:  
 “Hosanna!  
 ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’  
 10 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David  
 That comes in the name of the Lord!  
 Hosanna in the highest!”

**“Hosanna” – Save (2) \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Those who only praise God in times of spiritual blessings reveal a**

**(3) \_\_\_\_\_ faith.**

Mark 9:2-5—“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. 4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”

**The Apostle (4) \_\_\_\_\_ understood how to praise God in difficult times.**

Philippians 1:12-13—“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

Romans 5:1-5—“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Philippians 4:11-13—“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

**Those who only praise God for what he can do for them instead of for who he is show a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ faith.**

Job 1:20—“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

**SYMBOL #2:** The Fig Tree – v. 12-14

When a fig tree was in bloom it would <sup>(6)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ have figs on it.

The fig tree, from afar, gave the impression that it produced <sup>(7)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ beneficial to those who would need it.

The fig tree represented <sup>(8)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, who had the appearance of being spiritually fruitful without any true spiritual fruit.

Matthew 3:7-10—“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Jesus cursed the <sup>(9)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of empty faith – and <sup>(10)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it.

Hebrews 4:12-13—“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

I Corinthians 3:9-15a—“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss...”

**SYMBOL #3:** The Temple – v. 15-19

**REMEMBER:** Jesus <sup>(11)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ thought about what he was going to do in the temple.

Jesus specifically targeted four groups of people:

- Group 1: “those who bought and sold” – Those who <sup>(12)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ space in the temple to service lazy Jews.
- Group 2: “The money-changers” – Those who <sup>(13)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ from Jewish believers trying to sincerely worship.
- Group 3: “Those who sold doves” – Those who exploited the <sup>(14)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- Group 4: “Those who carried wares” – Those who simply used the temple as a <sup>(15)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to travel.

Again, Jesus judged those with the <sup>(16)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of

**religion who had no sincere faith.**

Matthew 23:27—“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

Jesus stated that the true use of this temple court was to serve as a “house of <sup>(17)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ for all the nations.”

**SYMBOL #4:** Prayer without Forgiveness – v. 20-26

## The Power of Prayer

Those who pray <sup>(18)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ prayers can move mountains!

James 1:5-8—“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Those who pray without forgiving others <sup>(19)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the mselves from forgiveness.

Mark 11:25-26—“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

One of the great <sup>(20)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ ministry was impressing the need for Christians to forgive.

### “The Unforgiving Servant”

Matthew 18:21-22—“Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

### “The Chronic Sinner”

Luke 17:3-5—“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

### “The Lord’s Prayer”

Matthew 6:9-15—“In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.[c]

14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

When a Christian truly <sup>(21)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ God’s forgiveness they are always willing to forgive people in their lives.