

# NEW BEGINNINGS

*begin with the end in mind*

## What Would It Mean To Live Like We Were Dying?

### Key passage for our 30-DAY ADVENTURE:

**Romans 13:11-12**, "This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living."

#### 1. LIVE WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY.

*We're all terminal. Some of us are just lucky enough to know it.*

#### 2. LIVE WITH A SENSE OF ETERNITY.

*You can't control the length of your life. Just the depth.*

#### 3. LIVE WITH A SENSE OF PRIORITY.

*May we live like we were dying with passion and purpose, and mission and meaning*

**TO LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING IS A BOLD CONCEPT.** We rarely even speak about dying, let alone live as if death were a certainty. However, what if you were told today that you only had thirty days to live? What would you change in your life? What would you do differently? Would life take on a new meaning? Would the prospect of an after-life suddenly become more than a theory? Would you seek out long lost friends? During this series we'll learn what it means to love deeper, speak sweeter, give forgiveness and embrace eternity.

**Live Like You Were Dying – Give Forgiveness Freely**

First United Methodist Church



# Give Forgiveness

*Live Like You Were Dying*

## ➤ Forgiveness is an **Unnatural** Act

Forgiveness is an **unnatural** act!

*Miraculous*

Forgiveness is undeserved and **unjust**.

*Grace*

Forgiveness is **choice** we make.

*Transformational*

## ➤ Forgiveness requires a change in **perspective**

I am can forgive because I've been forgiven

I will forgive because I need forgiveness again.

**God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.** Genesis 1:3

## ➤ Forgiveness is **HARDER** than you know!

*"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**"* Colossians 3:13

*"Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots."* Luke 23:34

## ➤ Forgiveness is the ultimate gift of **LIFE**

(1) Rediscover the humanity of the person

(2) Surrender your rights to get even

(3) Revise your feelings toward the other person

*"Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."* [Mt 5:44]

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**This is God's Word for my life in this place and at this time. Today, I am a new creation in Christ, I am God's very own, and I believe He has a purpose for my life.**

## ***Matthew 18: 21-35 (NIV)***

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.<sup>[f]</sup>

<sup>23</sup>"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents<sup>[g]</sup> was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'  
<sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup>"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.<sup>[h]</sup> He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

<sup>30</sup>"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly

distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup>"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup>In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup>"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

What if you went to the doctor and the doctor told you that you had cancer. You would not care to spend a great deal of time talking about where you got the cancer, how it developed and what all the various contributing factors were. You would not want to know the source. What you want to know is the *solution*. How do I get it out of me? I don't care how it got there... just get it out. In areas of forgiveness, we spend all our time focusing on the source... this is how I feel and this is why. It will do no good. We need to focus on the solution.

But what do we say? "Back up... it is not possible for me to forgive! Let me tell you, I have been so wronged; you just don't understand... I have been so very, very, very wronged." We all have a story... and it is compelling and it is sad. We deserve to hate that person. No one would ever expect us to forgive them. But Jesus does. He expects you to forgive! He expects you to let that go.

*Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (Message)*