

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SERMON OUTLINE -- MARCH 5, 2023

“Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Forgive Our Debtors” *(Matthew 6:12)*

INTRODUCTION: *World’s worst jobs*
-- how about “debt collector”??

I. TOO MANY OF US HAVE SPENT TIME **DEBT COLLECTING**

- A. What are you going to do with those people *in your debt*?
- B. In this petition of the Lord’s Prayer we are reminded of **the grace we received & the grace we are to then give**
(Matthew 6:12)

II. THERE IS A HIGH COST OF GETTING EVEN... **OF COLLECTING OUR DEBTS**

- A. You pay a price relationally
(like the lonely life of a “bounty hunter”)
- B. You pay a price physically
(Job 5:2 – “Resentment kills a fool”;
Job 18:4 – “You tear yourself to pieces in anger.”)
- C. You pay a price spiritually
(It gets in the way of our relationship with God)

(please turn page to continue)

III. **DEBT COLLECTING CAN STOP AS WE PRAY & UNDERSTAND** *FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS*

- A. This prayer does not mean:
we earn our forgiveness **by** giving forgiveness
- B. That understanding contradicts the rest of Holy Scripture
(Ephesians 2:8)
- C. Forgiveness is free to us but costly to God (John 3:16; 1 John 4:19)
- D. In the *Catechism* Martin Luther explains that our forgiveness of others is a result of God forgiving us:
“*Lord, forgive us our debts as **then** we will forgive our debtors*”
- E. Seeing the price paid on the cross for our forgiveness,
we are empowered to forgive others
(Psalm 130:3-4; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 4:19)

CONCLUSION: *Forgiveness healed a marriage
two weeks before death...*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Dinner this Friday!

You're invited to a **potluck dinner** on **THIS Friday, March 10 at 6:30pm**. This dinner is for the whole congregation! After dinner, we'll have a little fun with each table playing as a team for a game of Bible trivia on the Gospel of John. We hope to see you there!

Youth Fundraisers

If you're interested in supporting the youth by helping them attend a retreat at Camp Luther in April and a Gathering in Grand Forks in July, there are two fundraisers available. Check the church website to find the links to place your orders. Paper order forms will be available next week.

Order a pie from **Mr. Cooper's Pies** by **THIS Friday, March 10** for pie pickup on Sunday, March 12 after service.

Order your Easter chocolates from **Purdys Chocolate** by Sunday, March 19 for pickup on Sunday, April 2.

Thank you for your support!