Mirror Ministries

Don't Drink the Poison

"Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die." --Author Unknown

Sadly, our society is in an epidemic of disease. Everywhere you turn, someone is battling cancer, heart disease, diabetes, or something similar, either personally or in their family. The Bible says, "Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many" (Hebrews 12:15). I'm not a medical doctor and don't want to presume to diagnose anyone, but I see a concerning parallel between the uprising of bitterness and unforgiveness in our society with that of disease.

Forgiveness is a pardon. In other words, it releases the other person from continuing to hurt you. It doesn't mean what they did to you was okay--it simply means you are refusing to drink the poison.

When one of His disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He responded with a "model" prayer (what we now call The Lord's Prayer):

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. 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" (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4).

Many of us have this prayer memorized, but do we sincerely believe what we are praying? Jesus never instructed His disciples to memorize and quote this mindlessly. Instead, He gave us a model or a template on how to pray, and what things to include in our prayers.

Notice forgiveness is sandwiched right in the middle.

Once again, Jesus addressed the topic. It's in every instruction He ever gave us. Forgiveness isn't an option... It is a direct order from our Commander & Chief, who knows us, loves us, and wants the very best for us. And I'll add that it takes more strength to forgive than to not. In other words, you are not weak because you forgive--no, you are exhibiting great strength when you release another's debt.

Listen to the wisdom of those who have forgiven:

"A personal offense is like a scratch on a phonograph record. I couldn't move my thoughts beyond my pain. It kept repeating, as if I were stuck within its grooves. There was only one way to play beyond it. I had to forgive them, so my heart could take its form again." -Laurel Lee

"A wise man will make haste to forgive, because he knows the true value of time, and will not suffer it to pass away in unnecessary pain." -Samuel Johnson

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." - Gandhi

No matter what background a person has, wisdom comes to those who have chosen the path of forgiveness. And as Christians, we have supernatural help. It is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Jesus never asked us to do something He wasn't willing to assist with. So we forgive first by faith, as an act of our will in obedience to His instruction (see earlier posts from this week). And as we do so, we refuse the poison offered by our enemy to embitter our soul and wreak havoc in our lives.

The bottom line is, when you forgive, you win. Jesus came to destroy all the works of the enemy, and teaching us to forgive is one way He accomplished this. So don't let your enemy win--don't drink the poison!

Local First United Bank Announces Promotions

Ty Houston promoted to Assistant Vice President for First United Bank.

Ty Houston has been promoted to Assistant Vice President for First United Bank. Houston has been with First United Bank since January of 2009 and has four years of banking experience. He serves as a Lending Officer for our Seminole Banking Center. Houston graduated from West Texas A&M University with a degree in agribusiness. He volunteers his time outside of work as an ambassador for the Seminole Chamber of Commerce, a board member for the Lions Club and has served as team captain of the First United Bank Relay for Life team for the past three years.

Linda Sanchez promoted to Banking Officer for First United Bank.

Linda Sanchez has been promoted to Banking Officer for First United Bank. Sanchez has been with First United Bank since July of 2002 and has 13 years of banking experience. She serves as a Lending Assistant for our Seagraves Banking Center. Sanchez has volunteered her time as treasurer and captain for the Gaines County Relay for Life, is a member of the Seagraves ISD Citizens Committee, and the Athletic Booster Club.

ABOUT FIRST UNITED BANK & PLAINS BANCORP, INC.:

First United Bank, a subsidiary of Plains Bancorp, Inc., reports total assets of more than $1 billion and currently operates 15 Banking Center offices in 11 markets; Amarillo, Canyon, Dimmitt, Earth, Lamesa, Littlefield, Lubbock, Seagraves, Seminole, Sudan, and Wichita Falls, Texas.

Made up of dedicated, community-oriented people, First United Bank is committed to providing its customers with the best products and services to help them reach their financial goals. Visit us online at www.FirstUnited.Net.

Birth

Velasquez

Maria E. Velasquez of Seminole proudly announces the birth of her daughter, Juzal Manuela Velasquez.

The baby was born at Seminole Memorial Hospital on February 23, 2013. She weighed 9 lbs. 8.4 oz. and was 21" long.

Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Loya and Vicente Velasquez of Seminole.

Elsa Cortez
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