



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 17 September 2023



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning

In our reading today from Matthew 18:21-35, we are reminded of the mercy and grace we have received from God and the responsibility we bear to extend that mercy to others. The passage begins with Peter approaching Jesus with a question: "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" To Peter, forgiving someone seven times seemed like a generous gesture. However, Jesus responds with an astonishing statement: Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (or "seventy times seven" in some translations). The idea is that we should continue to forgive our brothers and sisters in Christ and not keep count.

To illustrate the importance of forgiveness, Jesus tells the Parable of the unforgiving slave. In this parable, a king decides to settle accounts with his slaves. One slave owes him an astronomical amount of money, a debt so huge that he could never repay it in a lifetime. The slave pleads for mercy, and the king, moved with compassion, forgives the entire debt.

However, this same slave, after leaving the king's presence, comes across a fellow slave who owes him a comparatively small debt. Instead of extending the same mercy he had received, he seizes his fellow slave, demanding repayment. When the debtor pleads for mercy, just as the first slave had done with the king, the unforgiving slave shows no compassion and throws his fellow slave into prison.

When news of this heartless act reaches the king, he is enraged. He summons the unforgiving slave and scolds him for not extending the same mercy he had received. In his anger, the king throws the unforgiving slave into jail.

So what does this mean for us?

This parable conveys several vital lessons about forgiveness:

The Magnitude of God's Forgiveness: The king's act of forgiving the massive debt represents God's incredible grace toward us. We owe an unpayable debt of sin to God, yet He so graciously forgives us.

Our Responsibility to Forgive: Just as we receive God's forgiveness, we are called to forgive others. In the Lord's prayer we pray "forgive us our sins/trespassers/debts as we forgive those who sin/trespass/have a debt against us". Jesus's response to Peter's question emphasizes that forgiveness should be boundless, not limited to a specific number of times.

The Consequences of Unforgiveness: The parable highlights the seriousness of holding unforgiveness in our hearts. When we refuse to forgive others, we are essentially imprisoning ourselves with bitterness and resentment. We carry all that awfulness around with us.

Mercy in Action: Forgiveness is not just a theoretical concept but a practical and transformative act. It requires us to extend mercy and grace to those who have wronged us, even when it seems difficult.

Matthew 18:21-35 challenges us to live as forgiven people who extend forgiveness. It calls us to recognize the enormity of God's mercy and grace in our lives and respond by showing the same mercy to others. As we journey together as a community of believers, may we strive to cultivate hearts filled with forgiveness and love, reflecting the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace

Aaron

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

Genesis 50:15-21
Matthew 18:21-35

What's Happening This Week

Today	Congregational Meeting 10am Chaira Companions 1.30pm
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Bible Study 6.30pm

Church Roster

Today Next Sunday

Duty Elders	Audrey & Neil	Neil & Robyn
Organist	Jill	Audrey
Greeters	Jane & Ellie	Lorraine S & Daphne
Bible Readers	Yesha & Joyce	Dudley & Barbara
Morning Tea	N/A	Mary & Pat
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Nigel
Cleaning	Craft Club	Aaron & Jane

*If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.***

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

- Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527
- Your Pastoral Carer

Other upcoming events for your diary

Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 27 September 9.30am
Men's Breakfast 30 September 8am
Elders/Council Meeting 10 October 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 11 October 11.45am
Craft Club 13 October 9am
Sunday School 15 October during Sunday Service
Mainly Music 17 October 9.30am
Church Fete 18 November 8am
Messy Church December 4pm TBC

Congregational Meeting

Please note that our next Congregational Meeting takes place **today** immediately after our Worship Service. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Combined Churches Worship Night

Following on from the successful combined worship service in April, a further service is taking place **today** at The Hub Baptist Church. A food truck will be open from 4pm and the worship service starts at 5pm. All are welcome.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School will be commencing on 15 October. It is planned to take place during our normal worship service, and will be held in the hall. If you know of any kids who could benefit from our Sunday School, please do spread the message!



mainly music

Mainly Music

Tuesday 19 September sees the end of the current term of Mainly Music. It is a dress up day, so no doubt all the kids (and big kids) will get their glad rags on. Why not come and join in the fun?!

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child

It is that time of year again, and this year's supply of Christmas Shoeboxes have arrived and are sitting on the table in the foyer. This is a wonderful project, and we encourage you to be a part of it. Please take a box (or more) plus the leaflets which explains the project and gives very good gift ideas. A donation to cover project costs per shoebox is detailed on the leaflet and is strongly encouraged please.

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762