

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857  
Parish Office: 713.738.2311; Fax: 713.738.3337  
CCE Office: 713.731.2775; SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716  
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725  
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>  
E-MAIL: [stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com](mailto:stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com)  
Parish Office Hours: Tues-Wed 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Fri 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Closed on Mon & Thur  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston> YouTube: St. Francis Xavier Houston

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.*

## PASTOR:

Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ

## PAROCHIAL VICAR:

Rev. Fr. John Patrick Tindana

## DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

## PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

## DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

## ADULT FORMATION (RCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

## SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 713.731.2716

## CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

## HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

## PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:15pm

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

## CONFESSIONS

One (1) hour before Weekend Masses or by appointment

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## CHOIR REHEARSALS:

### Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.

Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

### Youth Choir

4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

## CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

Mikayla Peugh 832.920.6912

## BIBLE STUDY/ADULT CATHECHISM:

**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents. Classes are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the Parish Office to register for the class.

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

## WELCOME VISITORS/NEWCOMERS

To register, call or come by the parish office or visit our website at: [www.sfxhouston.com](http://www.sfxhouston.com)

## GIVE without Cash or Check

FAITH DIRECT®  
Text-to-Give  
Text \$ amount to 281-949-7600

Save the number as a contact in your mobile phone for easy giving.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT.</b>	<b>09/16/2023</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Brandi Moore (D)</i>		
Phyllis Moore & Family		
<i>Joseph &amp; Earlene Duplechaine (D)</i>		
Duplechaine Family		
<i>Alton Albert, Jr. (D) – Rita Albert</i>		
<i>Herbert Goodwin, Jr. (D)</i>		
The Goodwin Family		
<i>R. L. Henderson (D)</i>		
The Henderson Family		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>09/17/2023</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>09/17/2023</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<i>Joseph Biagas (D) – Patricia Session</i>		
<i>James Milton Vallery (D)</i>		
Odelia Vallery & Family		
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i>		
Family & Friends		
<i>Audrey Williams Jones (D)</i>		
The Williams Family		
<i>Josephine Cirilo (D) – Cassandra Green</i>		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>09/17/2023</b>	<b>12:15PM</b>
<i>Craig Temple(L) – The Henderson Family</i>		
<i>Vernice White (L) – Tywanna Navy</i>		
<i>Jessie Bush (D) – Patricia Morgan</i>		
<i>Alonzo Richardson (D)</i>		
Marian Richardson & Family		
<i>Norman Richardson (D)</i>		
Marian Richardson & Family		
<b>MON.</b>	<b>09/18/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Shemaiah Johnson (D) – Patricia Morgan</i>		
<i>Earlene Duplechaine (D) – Tywanna Navy</i>		
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>09/19/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Vernice White(L)-SFX Sisters in the Spirit</i>		
<i>Tamara Sanders (D) – Tywanna Navy</i>		
<b>WED.</b>	<b>09/20/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Alton Albert, Jr. (D) – Rita Albert</i>		
<i>Monique Clark (D) – Tywanna Navy</i>		
<b>THUR</b>	<b>09/21/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Sheila Mouton-Hayes (L)</i>		
SFX Sisters in the Spirit		
<i>Wonder Victoria Hamilton (D)</i>		
Tywanna Navy		
<b>FRI</b>	<b>09/22/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>M/M H. Chaney (L) – P.A. Piper</i>		
Family & Friends		
<i>M/M W. Augillard (L) – P.A. Piper</i>		



**HENRY TAYLOR, SR**  
**1934 - 2023**



Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Alexis Alfred, Rv. Alfred Ayem SVD, Vea Barksdale, Sandra Bass, Kelly Batiste, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina Buckman, Savannah Blackwell, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Certenberg, Mabel Chavis, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rv. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Allison Eskine, Stanley Eskine, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank, Louis Gardner, Anthony Gobert, Tristian Gore, Beulah Hadrick, Gilbertine Haley, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Edress Hunt, Crystal Jackson, Oswald James, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Ann Kennerson, Leo Kennerson, JoAnn LaSane, Joseph H. LaVergne, Roy Lee, Stella Linden, Dcn. Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Kevin P. Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rv. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise Richmond, Christine & John Roberts, Russell Robinson, Oliver Rose, Grace Russell, Vy. Rv. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Eunies Shakesnider, Lilly Simms, Joyce Smith, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Irma Toliver, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Mark Williams, Patricia Williams, Janice Woods, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

**After 30 days, please call the office to remain on this list.**

**Lord, we pray for all our current military service members who put their own lives on the line every day to protect our families and our country.**

**Army:** Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L. Casteel **Navy:** Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The Reading from Sirach sets the theme today, counseling us to forgive our neighbor as we pray that our own sins may be forgiven. We sing in the responsorial psalm of the Lord's kindness and mercy. Paul preaches that in life and death we are the Lord's. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a king who was moved with compassion to forgive a great debt. May today's reading inspire us to forgive others as we seek forgiveness ourselves.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday – September 17**  
*24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

**Monday – September 18**

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Psalms 28:2, 7-9

Luke 7:1-10

**Tuesday – September 19**

*Saint Jamarius, Bishop, Martyr*

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Psalms 101:1-3, 5-6

Luke 7:11-17

**Wednesday – September 20**

*Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs*

1 Timothy 3:14-16

Psalms 111:1-6

Luke 7:31-35

**Thursday – September 21**

*Saint Mathew, Apostle & Evangelist*

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Psalms 19:2-5

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 9:9-13

**Friday September 22**

1 Timothy 6:2-12

Psalms 49:6-10, 17-20

Luke 8:1-3

**Saturday September 23**

*Saint Pius of Pietrelcina*

1 Timothy 6:13-16

Psalms 100:1-5

Luke 8:4-15





### CCE REGISTRATION

CCE Early Registration ends on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. A late fee of **\$15** will be charged after **December 9, 2023**. Classes will begin on **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** for Elementary Students and **September 25<sup>th</sup>** for Jr. High & High School Students. If you have any questions call **713-731-2775**.

### Post Confirmation Retreat September 9, 2023



Left to right: JoAnne Henderson, Catechist, Loriana Eaglin (2020), Rv. Fr. John Patrick Tindana, Parochial Vicar, Mackenzie Peugh (2021), Deacon Michael Jenkins, Facilitator, Tristian Gore (2022), Naushua Peters & Laila Simon (2023). Seated Front: Very Reverend Michael K. Saah-Buckman, Pastor and Unella Baber, DRE.

## RCIA

### Thinking of becoming Catholic?

If you're not a Catholic, or you are a baptized Catholic lacking Confirmation and Eucharist, we invite you to explore the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. Classes will begin on **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00pm - 7:00pm** in the Harris Center. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church and on the Parish Website [www.sfxhouston.com](http://www.sfxhouston.com)



### AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA PUBLIC ROSARY RALLY

The Rosary Rally will take place on Saturday, **October 7, 2023**, at 10:00am in the SFX Prayer Garden, weather permitting. The Rally is facilitated by the KPC

Family of Councils & Courts 138 and the CCE Department. All ministries are invited to participate and bring a friend.



**Carmella Pichon** passed away on September 7, 2023 at the age of 55yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 10:00am. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.



### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH FALL RAFFLE



#### Grand Prize!

#### TOYOTA COROLLA SE

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.....\$1000.00 Gift Card**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize.....\$500.00 Gift Card**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize.....\$400.00 Gas Card**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize...\$300.00 Macy's Gift Card**

Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 20 for \$100.00. Each household is asked to sell at least 2 books.

**Drawing: October 15, 2023**

**Winner Need Not be Present!**

### BAZAAR TEAM MEETING

The next Bazaar Planning Meeting will be held on **September 26<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:00p.m. in the Harris Center Auditorium.



### DREXEL SOCIETY FOUNDER'S DAY & AWARDS LUNCHEON

Announcing The Drexel Society, Inc., Houston Chapter Founder's Day and Presidential Awards Luncheon. The date is **October, 28 2023**, at the Wyndham Houston Hotel, 8686 Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas 77054, at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker is Mrs. Lajuana Armstrong-Jean, an HISD Principal. Lunch will be served approximately 12:30pm. The cost is \$40.00 per person. You may obtain tickets via email to [duplecha.angela@att.net](mailto:duplecha.angela@att.net), or call (713) 416-6957.

### Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

#### A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen**

### Stewardship Reflection

That we recognize everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, including our very own lives. "For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." – Romans 14:8 This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to the life that He intended for you.



**55+ Club** The 55+ Club will meet on **Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm** in the Harris Center Auditorium.



The Youth Choir rehearsal is Saturday, **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Harris Center **Room 125**

Youth Ministry will meet in the Harris Center Room 125 on Sunday, **September 24<sup>th</sup>**, after the 10:00am Mass. All youth and parents are invited to attend.

### ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> was **404** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **46** views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



## ***We Have to Forgive People Like God Forgives People***

**Deacon Darryl K. Drenon**

Brothers and sisters, Happy Sunday! On this 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time, this is one of the tougher Gospels to embrace. We want to be forgiven but we don't want to forgive in the same measure.

Think about this...God forgives us day after day for all of our lives.

He is calling upon us to do to other people exactly what he is doing for us as Christians.

So in today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus teaches us to forgive seventy times seven times. Now when we reflect on Jesus' seventy times seven teaching, we should pay attention to its context, which marries forgiveness and correction. Here is a look at what seventy times seven mean, and how it fits into the Bible's teachings about sin, repentance, forgiveness, and rebuke.

Jesus says we should forgive someone seventy times seven in response to a question from Peter about how many times to forgive a brother who sins against him. Peter asks if forgiving seven times is appropriate, and Jesus responds, **"not seven times, but seventy times seven"**. On one level, this number is wordplay—Jesus is taking the number that Peter gave and one-upping it, changing Peter's expectations.

The parable Jesus tells after giving this instruction highlights what he means by **"seventy times seven."** He tells a parable about an unmerciful servant who has amassed an impossibly large debt but is forgiven for it. The servant is described as owing 10,000 talents. Side note: a single talent was 20 years of wages for a day laborer.

So, this servant owed a debt in the millions, a debt that given his job and status, he couldn't possibly accumulate in the real world. Even in the modern-day world when some people rack up thousands of dollars of gambling debts, no bookmaker or employer would be stupid enough to lend that much money. Jesus is exaggerating to make a point about how huge the debt is, that it's impossible to pay back. In the same way, when Jesus says **"seventy times seven,"** he is creating a number so large that counting it would be ridiculous. You could try to mark every time you've forgiven somebody for a while, telling yourself, "Well, seventy times seven is 490, once they've hit 491, it's all over..." However, the work to track your forgiveness for that long would be silly. So, the point is that we can't put a number on forgiveness. We must forgive people always, without putting a limit on it.

**Why Must We Forgive Seventy Times Seven?**

In the parable of the unmerciful servant, the servant's debt is forgiven by his master. Jesus affirms that the master refers to God, his heavenly father when he finishes the story. So, Jesus sets the story up as being about how God forgives us our sins, and therefore how we should forgive others. We are all sinners, and we were all dead in our sins (Galatians 2:1). Jesus offers us salvation, not because we have done anything to deserve it, but

by grace (Galatians 2:4-7). Having had our debts forgiven even though we did nothing to deserve it, we should forgive others with that same generosity.

Brothers and sisters, sometimes, when talking about forgiveness, we give the impression that forgiveness means we completely trust the offender, act as nothing happened.

However, right before Jesus talks about seventy times seven, he gives a teaching about what to do if a believer sins against another believer. You may remember this Gospel reading from Matthew from last week. He advises to meet with the offender privately, point out the offense and see if they repent. If that doesn't happen, one should gather two or three other believers, go to the offender again, and if that doesn't work then **"take your case to the church"**. If the offender still doesn't repent, then **"treat that person as a pagan or a tax collector"**.

This highlights that while we should always forgive (let go of resentment toward the offender), there are still consequences for sin. If a person has not repented of their sin, then they should not be trusted as if they're an innocent person. To give the most extreme example, forgiving someone who abused you doesn't mean you let that person play with your kids. It is still wise to have boundaries, to consider whether someone has repented, and to expect a repentant offender to show he or she is worthy of being trusted again. This is particularly important in the context of Christians relating to each other because when a brother has not repented of a sin, that is a problem that must be addressed by other Christians.

This nuance between always extending forgiveness, never judging non-Christians, but correcting other Christians, is affirmed multiple times in the Bible. Jesus tells his disciples not to judge and to be wary of hypocrisy (Matthew 7:1-6). Paul describes the depravity that humans as a whole have fallen into (Romans 1), then advises Christians not to judge sinners because they were once sinners themselves (Romans 2:1-3). James advises not to speak evil against one's brother (other Christians) because there is only one judge (James 4:11-12). However, Paul affirms in 1 Corinthians 5 that Christians have to judge other Christians, removing unrepentant people from a church if necessary (1 Corinthians 5:5). He tells Timothy, a church leader, to **"patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching"** (2 Timothy 3:2).

Generosity, wisdom, and when necessary, correction must all work together.

**We Have to Forgive People Like God Forgives People**

So, brothers and sisters, let us start right now. Let us take the time to consider who has sinned against us. This may be someone within our family or church, it might be someone from our past. It may even be someone no longer living or who we can't contact for various reasons. If the person committed a sin and we harbor resentment, then there needs to be forgiveness. Let us forgive others as God forgives us...





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**VENDORS WELCOME**

**TUESDAY, SEPT 19, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.**

**St Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
4600 Reed Rd., Houston, TX 77051**

*Refreshments*

*Prizes*

**Contact: Debra Walker  
Walker.debra98@gmail.com  
Phone: 346-719-1346**



When the master heard what the servant had done to the other man, he was angry! The servant had been shown mercy, but didn't show mercy to another.



# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

September 17, 2023 • Matthew 18:21-35

## The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Finish each word with the syllables from the list below.

\_\_\_\_\_ers    ow\_\_\_\_\_    ba\_\_\_\_\_

mas\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ve    un\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ll\_\_\_\_\_    pa\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_im

The \_\_\_\_\_ter ga\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_

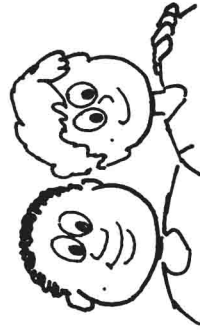
to the jail\_\_\_\_\_ til he

\_\_\_\_\_id \_\_\_\_\_ck a\_\_\_\_\_

he \_\_\_\_\_ed!



Jesus said we should forgive others from our heart.



Peter asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive someone who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Use this calculator code to find the answer.

Jesus answered,

" $\frac{\%}{3} \frac{9}{5} \frac{5}{5} = \frac{\text{ON}}{\div}$ "

$\frac{\text{ON}}{7} \div 3$

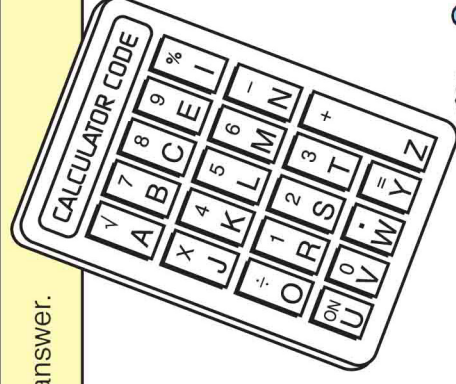
$\frac{2}{3} \frac{9}{\%} \frac{0}{6} \frac{9}{9} -$

$\frac{3}{7} \frac{\%}{\text{ON}} \frac{6}{3} \frac{9}{2}$

$\frac{2}{2} \frac{9}{9} \frac{0}{0} \frac{9}{9} - \frac{3}{3} =$

$\frac{2}{3} \frac{9}{\%} \frac{0}{6} \frac{9}{9} -$

$\frac{3}{3} \frac{\%}{7} \frac{6}{\text{ON}} \frac{9}{3} \frac{2}{2}$



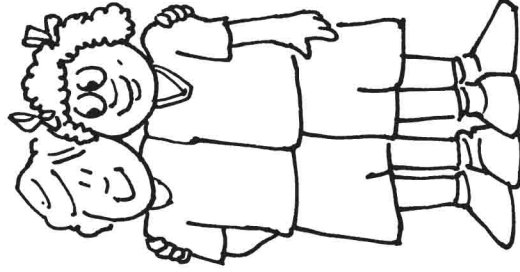
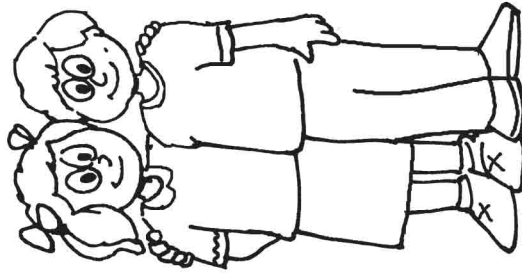
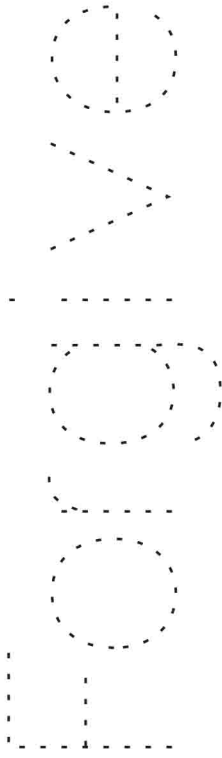
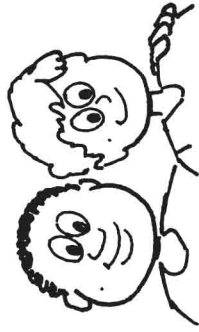
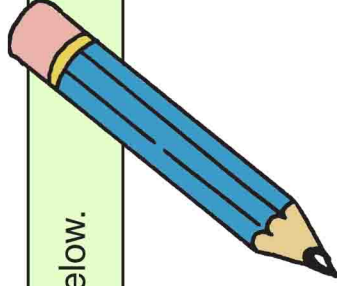
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**PGPH77**



What does God want us to do  
from our hearts?

Trace the letters below.

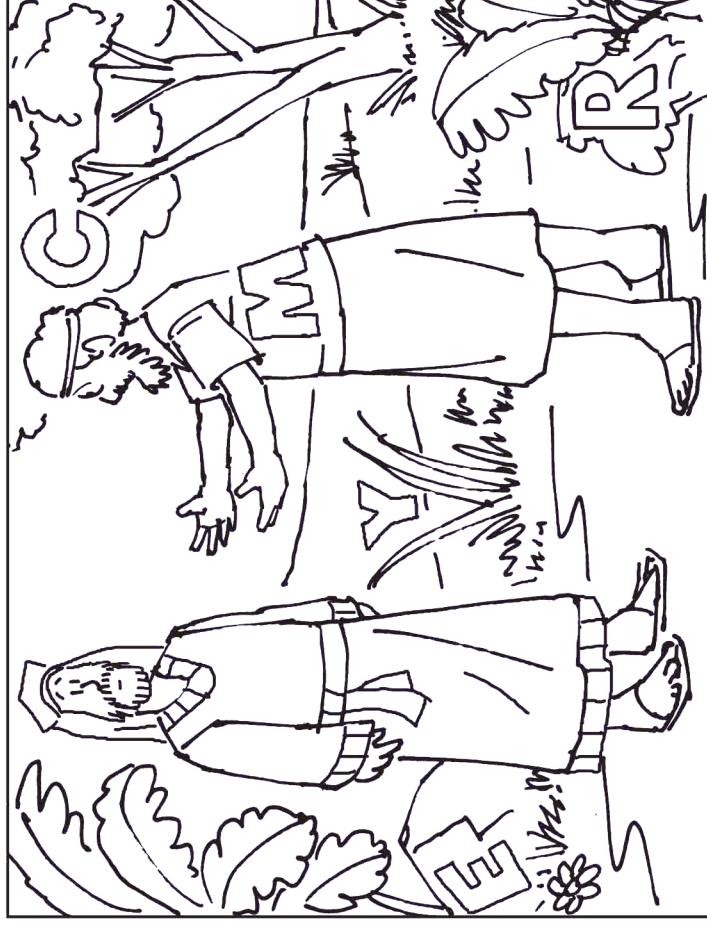


The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

A servant owed his master  
more money than he had. He begged  
for mercy and it was granted to him.

Circle these letters in the picture.

M E R C Y



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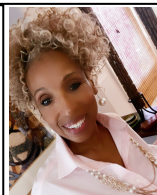


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