

Seeking Forgiveness

- Jeremy S. Jones

Jesus says in **Matthew 5:21 – 26** *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”*

A powerful section of Scripture. Makes us put things in perspective when we look at it from eternity's sake. We cannot come before the Father, until we come to our brothers and sisters and seek the forgiveness, He has freely given us. I come to you with these verses, not to say I have been wrong, but to say I have wronged you. I have allowed my fears, lack of confidence and, at times, my pride get in the way of being a shepherd. I have stood by, when I should have stood up and have been silent when I should have spoken. You all have put your trust in me and gave me a chance to serve here, knowing this was my first time as a Senior Minister. For that I am truly grateful.

In studying God's Word, prayer, and the Biblical guidance of a trusted mentor I have learned a lot these past few months. I know I cannot go back and fix all the mistakes I have made. I can only move forward in the grace God has given. In growing and learning from my mistakes I more determined walk in the way God desires, and according to the calling I have been given in Scripture.

I would ask you to first pray and then to please forgive me for not being the shepherd you entrusted me to be. It's my prayer that together we can walk according to Scripture and grow this church to the glory of the One who saves and the One who redeems, Christ Jesus.