

BEHOLD Week 8: August 31-September 6, 2026

Community: *Living as Those Made Alive in Christ*

(written by Pastor Melissa Pickering)

Gathering Song [Where Forgiveness Is](#) by Sidewalk Prophets

Daily Prayer *Jesus, Jesus you are with me as I step into this day.*

Let me hear you gently calling, "Precious child, walk this way."

Jesus, Jesus when I hear you, calling me to follow you,

In that hour, give me grace to love my neighbor like you do. Amen.

Scripture: 8. Colossians 3:13 **Context: 12-14 Living as Those Made Alive in Christ**

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Devotional Thoughts

Small towns are full of such wonderful, considerate and forgiving people. I once heard a story of a plumber who purchased supplies from the local hardware store on credit. Each trip would cost a pretty penny, and the plumber's tab grew and grew. One day, the man walked into the store and told the gentleman, his friend, behind the counter that he wasn't able to pay what he owed, and that he understood if he wasn't welcome in the hardware store ever again.

We probably all know how this story ends, don't we? The owner of the store threw the plumber's tab in the trash and said that his debt was forgiven. He didn't negotiate a lesser amount owed, and he certainly didn't tell the man he couldn't be in the store.

There are times in our communities that we need to forgive a debt, and that means more than just excusing the offense. It means forgiving as God forgives us. It is this release of debt that not only frees us from the other person, but also from our own hearts.

This Week's Challenge? Is there someone that you need to release from a debt? Are you able to see past the sin, and forgive the sinner? Forgiveness can be hard, but when we stop keeping tabs on who owes what, or a ledger of past sins, we are able to reflect the mercy that we have already received from God.

Paul doesn't tell the people of Corinth to forgive because others deserve it. He tells them to forgive because the Lord has forgiven all of us. Our debt has already been canceled, and when we live into that, when we believe that, we are free to forgive others.

Affirmation of Christian Vocation: Make the sign of the cross on your forehead (or if you are doing this devotion with others, make the sign on the forehead of another) while saying...

All that we do belongs to God—our work and our rest.

We follow Jesus with thankful hearts and open hands, serving our neighbor in love.

Morning and evening, at work and at play, our life is in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN