Romans 5:12-17

12 Therefore, just as sin came into
the world through one man, and
death came through sin, and so
death spread to all because all have
sinned— 13 for sin was indeed in the
world before the law, but sin is not
reckoned when there is no
law. 14 Yet death reigned from
Adam to Moses, even over those
who did not sin in the likeness of
Adam, who is a pattern of the one
who was to come. 15 But the free
gift is not like the trespass. For if
the many died through the one
man's trespass, much more surely
have the grace of God and the gift
in the grace of the one man, Jesus
Christ, abounded for the
many. 16 And the gift is not like the
effect of the one man's sin. For the
judgment following one trespass
brought condemnation, but the gift
following many trespasses brings
justification. 17 If, because of the
one man's trespass, death reigned
through that one, much more
surely will those who receive the
abundance of grace and the gift of
righteousness reign in life through
the one man, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 12: 38-40

38 Then some of the scribes and
Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we
wish to see a sign from you." 39 But
he answered them, "An evil and
adulterous generation asks for a
sign, but no sign will be given to it
except the sign of the prophet
Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three
days and three nights in the belly of
the sea monster, so for three days
and three nights the Son of Man
will be in the heart of the earth.

Merimbula Uniting Church

(PART OF SAPPHIRE COAST UNITING CHURCHES)

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'Creating a caring, nurturing community'

Out of pity, he

forgave the debt.
Mt 18:27

Morning Worship: Roster

	13th September 2026	20th September 2026
Leader	Rev Andrew Collis	Rev Andrew Collis
Music	Elizabeth Prosser	Corinne Nicolson
Entry of Bible	Robyn Herdegen	Ailsa Liffman
Acknowledgement of Country	Iris Ballard	Rev Andrew Collis
Stewards	Ailsa Liffman & Ana Topic	Robyn Herdegen & Anne Olinsky
Reader	Iris Ballard	Elizabeth Prosser
Pastoral Prayer	Robyn Herdegen	Ailsa Liffman
Morning Tea	Meryll Davey & Iris Ballard	Wendy & Larry Huland
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Tony Olinsky
Flowers	Robin Unger	Robyn Herdegen
Lectionary	Romans 5:12-17 Matthew 12:38-40	Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

Regular Activities

Morning Worship: 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday/month: - 10am
Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and 2:30pm at Wyndham
Imlay House Service: 2:00pm, 4th Thursday of the month – helpers would be appreciated.
Tura Beach Op Shop: Open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.
Uniting Church Tai Chi 108: Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley
Uniting Church Dance Group: Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and Friday mornings at 9 am Contact Jeff Haynes on 0402 384 535 for details.
'Blokes United' Coffee Morning - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday each month - 10am at The Eddy
Ladies Friendship Coffee Afternoon – 2nd Wednesday of the month – 2pm at RSL
Church Bring-and-Share Brunch – 1st Sunday/month (Feb, May, Aug, Nov.)

Shirley McLennan – 15th
Ana Topic – 15th

For those who would like to make their offering anonymously via regular direct bank transfer, our banking details for Giving Direct are: **Acc Name** Sapphire Coast Uniting Church **BSB** 634-634 **Acc No** 100037934

Dates to save:

Saturday 26th September -Culture of Safety Workshop for members of council and leaders 9:00am to 4:00pm in church hall.

Sunday 27th September – Picnic with our Eden friends, at **Ford Park, at 12 noon.** Bring picnic food, folding chairs, musical instruments & simple games.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Forgiveness is a key concept for Christians. Jesus talks a lot about releasing others from debt, guilt, and blame. Maybe he has seen the destructive power of holding onto wrongs done and of bearing grudges over another's behaviour that can compound the damage already inflicted.

Peter speaks for us all when he asks if forgiveness should continue to be extended for ongoing wrongs. So, Jesus tells this story to get him, and us, thinking. It is easy to read this as an allegory instead of a parable; parables are intended to surprise or startle us. What surprises us most in this story about the unforgiving servant? Is it that the king deems his slaves' debts important enough to take his time and attention? Or is it that this enslaved person owes so much? Is the leniency shown to him and his family by the king unexpected? Are we shocked by the immediate action of the enslaved person to retrieve a much smaller debt from a workmate? Or reassured that the other slaves are aware of what's happening among them and ready to act for justice? Perhaps we are puzzled by the king's change of attitude from leniency to punishment, or we find ourselves agreeing with his righteous anger at the enslaved person's failure to follow the path of mercy.

The ending unsettles us. How do we hold this image of harsh punishment alongside our understanding of a merciful God? What might Jesus be revealing about the seriousness of forgiveness, and not extending to others the mercy we have received? There is much here to challenge us and shape how we live with one another.

Always try to do the right thing, unless your conscience tells you otherwise.

Forrest Gump