

Forgiveness: Extending God's Mercy-- Mt 18:21-35 7/12/2020

Forgiveness = to pardon or remove guilt, removing our need to get revenge. It means graciously and generously canceling a debt.

1. Is it okay to stop forgiving someone because it's no use? Mt 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

22 "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

2. How do you know when you haven't forgiven someone?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

23 "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

26 "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

28 "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

29 "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. 30 But his creditor

wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

31 "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

Jesus wants us to forgive like He forgives—without limit or conditions.

Jesus wants us to show mercy when mercy is due! "Just as I..." Jesus is making a parallel to himself here. Rom 8:29

35 "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

3. What if we don't feel like forgiving others? How do we change our thinking and feeling?

Step 1—Confess your pain first—Psalm 62: 8 —Psalm 5:1-3 -- Gal 2:20

Step 2—Consider your purpose —"I want to know Christ--yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death," Phil 2:10-- In good times and bad.

Step 3 –Consent to His will- OR REAP THE CONSEQUENCES

Jesus said if you love me you'll obey my commandments. We can forgive for many reasons:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" Romans 2:4

- The Lord's goal for our lives is not to make us happy, but holy, and others holy as well through us!
- It is in those times that we must remember, that it is easier to act our way into feeling than to feel our way into acting.
- Maturity is doing what you need to do regardless of the environment, because you are fulfilling God's call in your life and doing it for His glory.

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Col 3:23

4. What does God say about forgiveness?

1. We forgive because we have been forgiven by God.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Eph 4:32

2. We forgive in obedience to God (Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:18).

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

3. We forgive others to gain control of our lives from hurt emotions (Gen 4:1-8).

"So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

4. We forgive so we won't become bitter and defile those around us (Heb 12:14-15).

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled..."

Respond Questions:

1. Why is it hard for you to forgive someone else! Why do you put it off?
2. How do you know when you haven't forgiven someone? What are *your* symptoms?
3. Do you have a hard time forgiving yourself knowing this isn't the first time? What hurt do you have that needs healing?
4. Why is grace and mercy so necessary for forgiveness? How do they relate?
5. What happens if you don't forgive others? What will be the consequences?
6. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
7. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?