



SERMON
NOTES

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June 2, 2019

“Forgiveness”

Luke 17:1-4; 6:27-28

Confession, repentance, and forgiveness is good for the soul and is a pathway to spiritual renewal.

1. FORGIVENESS IS A COMMAND WE’RE TO OBEY

³“So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.” ⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. ⁷Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat?’ ⁸Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink?’ ⁹Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

Luke 17:3-14

- The disciples didn't need more faith, they just needed to obey what they had already been told by Jesus to do: to forgive
- Who has God asked us to forgive but we just have not done it yet because we feel it's too hard for us? _____

2. FORGIVENESS DOES NOT MEAN

- What the other person did to you was OK
- Pretending that an offense has not taken place
- Making excuses for another person's bad behavior
- Restoring a relationship when it is not safe to do so
- Saying you forgive someone before they are ready to hear it, or before you are ready to say it
- Cancelling the negative consequences
- Trusting someone when reliable behavior on their part is absent; trust and forgiveness are separate issues

3. FORGIVENESS COMES WITH BENEFITS

a. We will experience healing

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Psalm 31:10

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16

b. It will prevent the devil from gaining a foothold

²⁶Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:26-27

- Sin and unforgiveness allow an opening into our lives through which the devil can come through. Once he has an opening, he can do untold damage to us as well as to our families.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. *Isaiah 59:2*

- We need to close the hole through confession and forgiveness

c. God will forgive us

¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. *Matthew 6:14-15*

- When we do forgive others, God will forgive our sins

4. FORGIVENESS IS AN ACTION WORD

When we do not forgive, we choose to hold on to our pain. This creates a prison of pain in our lives that will continue to grow and fester, like a seed planted that turns into a large tree, until we choose to deal with the root and forgive.

²⁷But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. *Luke 6:27-28*

How are we to love our enemies? There are 3 key things we can do

a. Do good to them

b. Bless them

c. Pray for them

Forgiveness is a process, not an event. So let's begin to start the process.

- Ask God to forgive you for not forgiving others as He forgave you
- Stop rehearsing the wrong and punishing the offender

LISTEN IN PRAYER (HEARING GOD EXERCISE)

Listen for what God wants to say to you about the offender

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Ask God if there is anything you did to contribute to the situation

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Listen for what God wants to say to you personally

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Listen for how God will turn what was intended for evil into good

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Ask the Lord how you can “*do good to them*”

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Ask the Lord how you can “*bless them*”

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Ask the Lord how you can “*pray for them*”

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