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Lead Pastor

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven! “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. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.

Matthew 18:21-35

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

“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.

Matthew 18:21-35

“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. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 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.

Matthew 18:21-35

Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

“That's what My heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

April 7th	Bible Study - Proverbs
April 14th	[Past] - Generational Brokenness
April 21st	[Past] - Generational Blessing
April 28th	[Present] - Tool #1 to unleash power of God in family relationships
May 5th	[Present] Tool #2 to unleash power of God in family relationships
May 12th	[Future] Forever Family

Forgiveness

“Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea
until he has something to forgive.”

– C.S. Lewis

Is the daily practice of (repentance + forgiveness)
a defining characteristic of your family relationships?

If there is no forgiveness, your family will definitely be miserable and probably be temporary.

The Sinfulness of Humanity + The Proximity of Family
= Forgiveness or Bust

“Unresolved rifts can precipitate chronic stress in one or both participants that undermine their emotional and physical health. The resulting anxiety or depression can worsen heart disease and diabetes, cause reproductive problems, undermine immunity, and even shorten the person’s life.”

Matthew 18:21-35

1. What forgiveness should look like
2. The high stakes of unforgiveness

Three Approaches to Forgiveness Today:

- a. Forgiveness, but without justice
- b. Forgiveness, but only after justice
- c. No forgiveness

Theology Lesson - Forgiveness, but without justice.

- God created a moral universe where there is "right and wrong".
- When a wrong is done, and someone has to pay for the damage.
- CF always costs the victim because it means absorbing at least some of the debt.
- CF heals the victim with Christian love.
- CF never undermines social justice (which would be unloving to the community/family).
- CF never undermines restorative discipline (which would be unloving to the sinner).

Three Approaches to Forgiveness Today:

- a. Forgiveness, but without justice
- b. Forgiveness, but only after justice
- c. No forgiveness

Theology Lesson - Forgiveness, but only after justice.

- CF is an act of grace.
- CF is a gift not a reward.
- CF is based on the character of the giver, not the worthiness of the recipient.
- CF is offered from an experience of divine forgiveness by the power of God in the hope of healing for the sinner.
- Eph 2:8-9 - "God saved you by His grace when you believed... it is a gift from God."

Three Approaches to Forgiveness Today:

- a. Forgiveness, but without justice
- b. Forgiveness, but only after justice
- c. No forgiveness

Theology Lesson #3 - No forgiveness.

- CF is commanded so sinners can live in community for now.
- 1Pt 4:8 - "love covers a multitude of sins"
- CF is commanded so victims can be at peace for now.
- Rom 12:19 – "Never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God."

MATTHEW 18:21

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

MATTHEW 18:22

“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied,
“but seventy times seven!”

MATTHEW 18:23-24

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. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him **millions of dollars** [*"ten thousand talents"*].

$$\$60,000 \times 10,000 \text{ units} = \$600,000,000$$

Matthew 18:25-27

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

LUKE 23:34

Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

- **Roman soldier – 23:47** - When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.”

- **The crowd – 23:48** - And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.

- The Religious Leaders – 23:50-54 - [Joseph, a member of the Jewish high council] went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock.

- The Criminal – 23:42-43 - Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Acts 2:14,38,41

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd... "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." ... about 3,000 in all were added to the church that day.

ACTS 6:7

So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish **priests** were converted, too.

ACTS 15:5

But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the **Pharisees** stood up...

ACTS 10:1

In Caesarea there lived a **Roman army officer** named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. He was a devout, God-fearing man...

Matthew 18:21-35

1. What forgiveness should look like
2. The high stakes of unforgiveness

Matthew 18:28-35

“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. “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. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.

Matthew 18:28-35

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. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

“Jesus’s final sentence means that divine mercy should change our hearts so that we are able to forgive as God forgave us. If we will not offer others forgiveness, it shows that we did not truly repent and receive God’s.”

- Tim Keller, *Forgive*