

Love Forgives & Forgets, Pt. 1
Sermon Series: Are You A Good Neighbor?
September 11, 2022
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- † 1 Corinthians 14:1, "Let love be your highest goal" (NLT).
- † 1 Corinthians 13:5c, "Love keeps no record of being wronged" (NLT).

1. Forgiveness is NOT _____.

- † Luke 17:4, Jesus said, "Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive" (NLT).
- † Luke 23:34, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing" (NLT),

2. Forgiveness is NOT _____ of the offense.

- † John 8:10-11, Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, "Then are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" ¹¹"No, Lord," she said. Go and sin no more" (NLT).

Two Experiences You Have To Differentiate

- a. _____ is when someone hurts you accidentally.
- b. _____ s when someone intentionally meant to hurt you.

3. Forgiveness is NOT resuming a relationship _____.

- † Isaiah 59:2, "It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore" (NLT).
 - Restoring a relationship and forgiveness are two different things the Bible teaches. Forgiveness is _____. Restoration is only possible when _____ has been restored, sometimes after a long period of time. Forgiveness takes care of the _____ done.

For A Relationship To Be Restored, 3 Things Are Required

- a. The person has to demonstrate genuine _____.

- † 2 Corinthians 7:10, "For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation" (NLT).

- b. The person has to make _____ whenever possible for the damage done.

- † Numbers 5:5-7, "Then the Lord said to Moses, ⁶Give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If any of the people—men or women—betray the Lord by doing wrong to another person, they are guilty. ⁷They must confess their sin and make full restitution for what they have done, adding an additional 20 percent and returning it to the person who was wronged" (NLT).
- † Luke 19:8, "But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'I will give half of my possessions to the poor. To those I have cheated and extorted their taxes, I will make restitution by paying back four times more to them'" (EXB).

- c. The person has to _____ by proving they have _____
(Biblical examples: See this with Peter in Luke 22:54-62 verses John 21:15-21; with Paul and John Mark in Acts 15:36-41 verses 2 Timothy 4:11; with Jacob and Esau in Genesis 27:41 & Genesis 33:4; the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24 verses Luke 15:25-32).

- † Proverbs 18:19, "An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars" (NLT).

4. Forgiveness is NOT _____ what happened.

- † 1 Corinthians 13:5c, "Love keeps no record of being wronged" (NLT). See Ephesians 4:31-32.
- † Matthew 5:23-24, Jesus said, "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God" (NLT).

Jesus Says 4 Actions Are Required When You Have Wronged Someone

- a. _____ — don't ignore this command (vs. 24).
- b. _____ to the person you've wronged (vs. 24).
- c. Take responsibility to get _____ (vs. 24).
- d. _____ to offer your worship to God (vs. 24).

- The word Jesus uses is the Greek New Testament word translated as “reconcile” is [διαλλάσσομαι; diallassō]. It is from the root that means “to _____ through so as to improve or heal, to _____ through so as to improve or heal.”

Some Questions This Raises

- What if they _____. Sometimes it takes _____ to take place.
 - What if the situation _____. You take away their _____ and all that is left is now their _____, which does a number on them (see 1 Samuel 18:5-9).
 - What if I decide to _____ but do not to through the embarrassment of talking to the person I wronged? If I do, not do this as God says . . .
 - It is _____ to what Jesus said in Matthew 5:23-24.
 - This can result in things _____.
 - What if it is impossible for me to be reconciled because the _____? Then _____
 - to a person you can _____.
- + James 5:16, “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results” (NLT).
 - + Psalms 32:3-4, “When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴Day and night Your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat” (NLT).
 - + 2 Samuel 12:13-14, “Then David confessed to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan replied, ‘Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won’t die for this sin. ¹⁴Nevertheless, because you have shown utter contempt for the Word of the Lord by doing this, your child will die’” (NLT).
 - If I have too much pride to attempt reconciliation with someone I have wronged due to my pride— they have died — then I confess to another person, God will _____ me but He may also allow future _____ to come my way.
 - + Matthew 18:21-22, “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!’” (NLT).
 - + Matthew 18:23-35, “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸‘But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses” (NKJV).

Jesus’ Story Motivates Us To Forgive Because . . .

- To refuse to forgive someone who has wronged us is intentional _____ and is _____ (vv. 32-33).
- To refuse to forgive a person who has wronged us, then _____ to us (vv. 34-35).
 - The Greek New Testament word that Jesus uses here for “torture” is [βασανιστής; basanistēs]. Same word is used in Matthew 8:5-6, “Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶saying, ‘Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented’” (NKJV). And the same word is used in Luke 16:23-24, “And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴‘Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame’” (NKJV).

5. Forgiveness is NOT my right when _____.

This Week Take3 These Three Actions

- **Take some time to focus completely on _____.** Read Psalms 32, Psalms 51, Psalms 103 and the crucifixion stories in the New Testament. Personalize these passages by inserting your name where there is a “you, my or us.”
- **Ask God to _____ anyone you are harboring a grudge against.**
- **Reread Jesus’ words in _____.** Ask yourself, “Where in my life has God turned me over to be tortured for not forgiving someone who has wronged me?” What has that torture been for you?