



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: "FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER"

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Date: October 11th, 2015

STORIES OF FAITH

God is at work every day: What are some Missional opportunities that you engaged in this week? As you begin your time together, invite the group to share 'Evidences of God's Grace' that they experienced or observed this week. This questions is to help focus our attention to what God is doing in the everyday routines of life.

OPENING COMMENT

As Christians, we have been saved through Christ and have received His mercy and forgiveness. We are called to give mercy and forgiveness to others when we are wronged. But refusing to forgive makes us the ones who destroy relationships and dismiss the opportunity to point others to Christ. Forgiveness gives us the freedom to move on and to build bridges for right relationships and personal growth. Lack of forgiveness destroys those bridges and along with it relationships, making it impossible to obtain personal healing and maturity. Our text today is about forgiveness, and it teaches that we must forgive without limits since that is how we have been forgiven by God.

"Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." ...

Read together Matthew 18:21-35

WORKING THROUGH THE PASSAGE

1. Jesus shatters any concept of quantified forgiveness

What do you think Peter's motive was in this passage?

In our daily lives, what ways do we put limits on forgiveness?

How has a lack of forgiveness affected your life?

2. God's grace: To receive forgiveness of an insurmountable debt

How can the realization of how much we have been forgiven by God help our ability and willingness to forgive someone?

James 2:13 says that mercy triumphs over judgement. In light of Sunday's sermon and what the passage teaches, who in your life might you feel compelled to show lavish mercy on?

3. When grace is not in view, vengeance is

With God's lavish saving grace and His countless future promises in view, would forgiveness of others seem more achievable? Why or why not?

4. When eternity is not in view, only the moment is

In light of eternity, how do you suppose God feels when we act like the servant did in our passage? Why is unforgiveness a price that is too high for any true Christian to pay? Do you trust God to be a just judge when you have been wronged?

How does the Gospel inform your forgiveness for others? Is the Gospel sufficient to make forgiving others from the heart possible for you?

5. A forgiven heart is a forgiving heart

If at least one call to action was needed from each of us regarding forgiveness, what would that be for you? Who do you need to seek reconciliation and forgiveness from?

SHARE AND PRAY TOGETHER

Take time to share with one another your "call to action" plans for the coming week. Maybe there is repentance or support needed to help the members of the group to step out in faith and grant forgiveness to someone. Together commit your action plans to prayer.

What are some missional opportunities in your life that your group can be praying for in the coming week?