

5-7-25 – Forgiveness

Universal topic. All have been.. going thru ... will go thru some hurt

Hard. Feels like gift to someone who doesn't deserve it. Deserve anger.

- No loopholes. Forgiveness is a command:

[Colossians 3:13](#) – “Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

① Truth: Forgiveness is a gift you give to yourself.

- If you're waiting to heal until the person apologizes, you are allowing them to hurt u twice. May not happen. So you've just given another person permission to control your peace...
- We need acknowledgement of our pain. But double-edge sword: you stay in pain every time you retell it.
- We **need** to stop suffering b/c of what another person did to us.
 - o We deserve to live that way. We deserve forgiveness. We **all** do

Forgiveness is a choice to receive provision from God to allow heart to heal

- Forgiveness is NOT excusing it... a free pass... dismissing it. “It's ok.”
- It's putting it in God's “to do” box and getting it off your mind.

Today: share a **story** about **forgiveness**. **Typical / Indirect**. No magic words
John 21 – disciples are in Galilee. Haven't moved forward; no mission.

- Simon Peter says, “I'm going fishing.” Tom, Nath, J/J, 2 more go too.
 - o Peter's **not fishing for men**. Back to old ways. Fishing. All night
- Once again, Jesus shows up. He stands on the shore.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven't you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus shows up. He knows **Peter can't truly move on w/o forgiveness.**

That **fire of burning coals** was what was **burning inside Peter**. Pain/before.

- We also get stuck. All we think about... talk about... Can't sleep.
 - **There's a line to cross . . .** peace is on the other side.
 - Line? **Surrender**. Acknowledgment.
 - Sooner U do, sooner U begin to heal. **②** Can't move on w/o it!

Who needs forgiveness here? Jesus is showing what forgiveness looks like.

- [Ephesians 4:32](#) – "Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you."
- Notice: **the one who was hurt was waiting to see the one who did it.**
 - I chose those words intentionally. Didn't say **Victim**.
 - We, like Jesus, are **conquerors**. Survivors. Victorious.
 - ③** God will use what happened for good. **Rom 8:28**. All things.
 - Others set us up. **Joseph**: 2d command. U intended...

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

"Peter was hurt." To be confronted w/truth hurts. Arrogant before/ "more"

④ Peter also can't move forward til he learns a lesson.

- ▶ Love doesn't deny. Love isn't based on "you know it" / "I show it."
Learning to show love is our calling. That was Peter's lesson.
- **Every hurt is a lesson. Pain has a purpose.** Powerful motivator.
 - Acknowledging our mistakes makes it possible to be better.

John 21:19 - Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me!" They walk & talk.

Don't know what was said. But it was tender. Loving. Merciful.

- The world doesn't need to know what you say either. Private.

5 But the **world needs to see love & forgiveness**. Sets us apart.

Truth: Forgiveness is of/from God. We don't muster it up.

Here is the irony of this encounter.

Matt. 18:21 - [Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times?"](#) **22** -Jesus answered, "I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!"

Isn't it ironic – Peter asked. . . Jesus is forgiving. More than 77x

- **77x b/c forgiveness is a journey.** Whack a mole. It's a process.
- **Forgiveness is a choice. Healing takes time.** Triggers show that. Coal.

6 Peter's **Q** shows we must forgive others b/c **we need forgiveness, too**

Mark 11:25 – "And when you stand to pray, if you hold anything against another, forgive it, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your trespasses as well."

Matthew 6:14-15 – "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

You are going to hurt someone. You're going to want to be forgiven.

- We can't refuse to give & expect to receive.

Self-forgiveness. Not a single verse. No direction. Left out of Bible?

Forgotten? Nope.

► Self-forgiveness says we have authority to choose if our sins are forgivable or not. But that's not the case.

7 Jesus paid price in full for your sins when He died on the cross.

- Jesus didn't pay part of the price, then ask you to finish it off.
 - **Colossians 2:13-14** [Cont. Engl. Ver.] – "God let Christ make you alive, when he forgave all our sins. God wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law of Moses. He took them away and nailed them to the cross."
 - If we can free ourselves of guilt by forgiving ourselves, then what do we need Jesus for?

- **Eph. 2:8–9** – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
- Jesus was pierced for our transgressions. There is no sin too great that His blood won’t cover.
 - **Our sin is against God... God is the one who forgives.**

CLOSING: Grace is undeserved. Not by merit. Loved same way by God. And God forgives. **It’s why Jesus was sent to us – forgiveness.**

He forgives us and commands us to forgive each other.

- Paul writes in 2 Cor. 2 about someone who has caused pain/ suffered punishment . . . and that is sufficient.
- *“Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.” – 2 Cor. 2:7-8*
 - That’s what Jesus did for Peter.
 - It’s what we can do for each other.
 - There’s a time to grieve, a time to dance. A time to keep, and a time to throw away. – Ecclesiastes 3
 - You’ve held on to the pain long enough...