

## Study Guide - The Bible Doesn't Say, "Forgive and Forget" - 5-6-2018

### Key Scriptures:

- Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
- Matthew 18:32-35 "...Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."
- Hebrews 12:15 "...looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."
- Ephesians 4:25-27 "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another. 'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

### Start Talking:

- Can God actually forget something? Wouldn't that be a sign of weakness or imperfection? What do you think of the truths that God has not forgotten our sin, but that our sin no longer condemns us, and that God is not looking at our sin, but at us? Isn't that enough?
- Sometimes the memory of something or someone rekindles the temptation to not forgive. So, what kind of power does it take to still remember a deep hurt, but to live in the freedom of forgiveness? What can cause this change?
- Read Luke 17:1-5. Do you need to ask God to increase your faith to forgive someone seven times a day?
- How would your life be changed if you realized that by forgiving quickly, a root of bitterness could be stopped inside of you before it

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begins? (Hebrews 12:15) What makes us hold on to bitter unforgiveness?

### **Start Thinking:**

- Read Jeremiah 17:9. Our response to being wounded is critical, and it is often driven by our emotions. When we are driven by our feelings, are we always being led by God's Spirit? (Romans 8:14) Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby said, "Forgiveness is not optional." Do you believe that everyone who will end-up in heaven has been forgiven by God? Now read Matthew 6:12, 14, and 15. With these two truths in mind, is it possible for someone who is going to heaven to refuse to forgive someone?

### **Start Sharing:**

- Ephesians 4:26 reads, "'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." Have you ever failed to obey this verse in your marriage or in a special friendship? Share.
- Pastor Bobby said, "If we still want the person to pay for what they did, we have not forgiven them." Now, read Romans 12:19. Discuss this difficulty.
- Pastor Bobby said, "Forgiveness and trust are two different things." Should we remove ourselves from some behaviors? How do we decide?

### **Start Praying:**

"Lord, help us to obey Your Word, and forgive even when we don't want to."

### **Start Doing:**

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- Pastor Bobby said, "When you forgive, you're not saying that what the person did is okay." Are you willing to forgive even though the person who hurt you may never change?
- Pastor Bobby said, "Forgiveness doesn't remove the past. It improves the future." How much freedom can you gain by understanding that forgiving is really for your own benefit, and a hindrance to yourself by not doing it?
- Pastor Bobby said, "Don't live according to what someone has done to you. Live according to what God has done for you." Are you ready to do this?