

Sermon Guide

The Happiness Advantage Part 5 - Forgiveness

Big Idea: Jesus doesn't just give us eternal life, he gives us a better life too.

John 10:10

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

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. 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. "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. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' 34Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. 35"That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

How Jesus Defined Forgiveness

1. Be filled with pity

2. Release the one who owes you

3. Forgive the debt owed

Luke 23:24

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

God forgive _____ for _____.

Discussion Questions

1. What's the silliest thing you've seen someone hold a grudge for?
2. When you hear Jesus say there is no limit to forgiveness, what is your immediate response?
3. Has someone ever forgiven you for something you did?
4. Is there a hurt you are struggling to forgive and let go of? How can your group be praying for you?