

## Faith Part 8 – Faith to Forgive (5-5-2019)

**Faith Series:** Seeing our way Home

**Key Verse:** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

**Review: “Faith for Others”** – Carrying others to Jesus & ripping off the roof for outcasts

**This Week: “Faith to Forgive”**

**Introduction:** Not an easy message, but a really good & important message. Life changing advice today.

Celebrated 17 years of marriage yesterday – best advice I ever got: “What if you never win another argument”

**Where we left off . . .**

### Matthew 16:19 (ESV)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Notes:** 2 questions to consider . . .

- What if you lived like the keys of the kingdom of God relied on who you ripped off the roof for?
- Who are you going to bring to Jesus feet – what outsider can become an insider because of you?

**This same concept Jesus mentions 2 other times to the disciples . . . (Both in the context of Forgiveness)**

**(1<sup>st</sup> time Jesus mentions the power that has been given to us)**

### Matthew 18:15-20 (ESV)

(15) "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (16) But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. (17) If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (18) **Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.** (19) Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. (20) For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

- **Radical Kingdom Power shows up when we choose to let loose forgiveness – so do it a lot!!!**
- **In fact build communities of forgiveness – and there you will see great power!**

**What about that part when your friend refuses to repent & reconcile? Then treat him like an enemy . . .**

### Luke 6:27-28, 32-33, 36-38 (ESV)

(27) "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, (28) bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you . . . (32) If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. (33) And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same . . . (36) Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (37) Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (38) give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

- We are called to love our enemies – In fact that same measuring stick we use to forgive our enemies is the one that will be used on us.
- You can actually help determine the depth & scope of the forgiveness you will receive!
- Jesus' forgiveness is limitless. So, your ability to receive forgiveness is determined by your willingness to forgive others!

### The Parables of Jesus that address this issue of Forgiveness

#### 1) Plank & Speck - Luke 6:39-45

**Notes:** Your inherent blindness keeps you from seeing this matter clearly

#### 2) Forgiving is a simple matter of duty - Luke 17:3-10 (ESV)

(3) Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, **forgive him**, (4) and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' **you must forgive him.**" (5) The apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith!**" (6) And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. (7) "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? (8) Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? (9) Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? (10) So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, '**We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.**'"

**Notes:** Your faith will increase to forgive, when you view it as the Standard Operating Procedure

#### 3) The elder brother – who refused to forgive the younger brother (Luke 15)

**Notes:** The insider becomes an outsider. Our positions are reversed when we refuse to forgive!

#### 4) Wicked servant who was forgiven much, but refused to forgive little - Matthew 18:15-35

**Notes:** The one who was freed, becomes imprisoned again, when he refuses to forgive debts.

### **The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)**

(14) For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, (15) but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Notes:** I will be forgiven based upon my willingness to forgive others

**If you are starting to feel like this is impossibly hard, you are thinking rightly!**

**Now, let's see the second time Jesus mentions the power we have to forgive . . .**

### **John 20:19-23 (ESV)**

(19) On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." (20) When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (21) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **(23) If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.**"

**Notes:** The power that Jesus had that was so controversial was the power to forgive sins.

- Jesus shows them what it cost for him to forgive.
- And Jesus now offers that same power to us!
- Jesus - You are going to need some help, here's the Holy Spirit!

**How can we learn to Forgive?**

**1) Recognize our own need, and then ask for it ourselves!**

### **1 John 1:7-10 (ESV)**

(7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**2) Practice with God's Family - We are one in Christ, so act like it!**

### **Colossians 3:11-15 (ESV)**

(11) Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but **Christ is all, and in all.** (12) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (14) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (15) And **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

### 3) Co-operate with the Spirit of God that is in you!

#### **Ephesians 4:30-32 (ESV)**

(30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (32) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, as God in Christ forgave you.

- Bob Goff says we are “becoming love” – If you aren’t becoming love, then what are you becoming?
- Notice the link between compassion and forgiveness!! The faith to forgive comes from placing faith in the compassion of God and it’s power to transform our lives when we take it as our own.

#### **Let’s take a look at the Compassion of God, and How He Forgives & Loves us . . .**

#### **Psalm 103**

(2) Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits . . .

- Who forgives all your iniquity (3a)
- Who redeems your life from the pit (4a)
- Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy (4b)
- The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (8)
- As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us (12)
- For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust (14)
- But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him (17)

#### **Jesus & Forgiveness – it is costly & unlimited . . .**

#### **Luke 24:45-47 (ESV)**

(45) Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, (46) and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, (47) and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**Note:** You are never more aligned & cooperating with the central message of Jesus, then when you are practicing repentance & the forgiveness of sins!

#### **Jesus not only died to offer forgiveness, but he practiced it on the cross . . .**

## Let's look at 2 examples . . .

### Luke 23:39-43 (ESV)

(39) One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (40) But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." (42) And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (43) And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- Jesus aligned himself with criminals, and while dying with them showed compassion & forgiveness
- When we see Jesus (who didn't deserve our fate) practicing forgiveness, then it opens our heart to the power of forgiveness!

## Second, not only does Jesus forgive the ones who deserved crucifixion, He forgives the ones who unjustly crucified him . . .

### Luke 23:32-34 (ESV)

(32) Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. (33) And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. (34) And Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" And they cast lots to divide his garments.

- Jesus didn't just align himself with outcasts.
- He forgave his enemies, the very ones who killed him!

## How do we respond to this love, and begin to walk it out?

We have already discussed some practical ways and I hope you will listen and apply them; but let's get to the heart of the matter today . . .

### Luke 7:36-50 (ESV)

(36) One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. (37) And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, (38) and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. (39) Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." (40) And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." (41) "**A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. (42) When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?**" (43) Simon answered, "**The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.**" And he said to him, "**You have judged rightly.**" (44) Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my

feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. (45) You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. (46) You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. **(47) Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.** (48) And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (49) Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" (50) And he said to the woman, "**Your faith has saved you; go in peace.**"

**Conclusion:** We need to Receive Forgiveness, Worship God (lavishly), and then Forgive others!

## **Sunday Announcements (5-5-19)**

**1) Mozambique** – Last Sunday: our goal was to raise the funds to complete the house.

- **We hit our goal in 1 week!**
- **Not to late to give – the remainder will go to flood relief in the area**

**2) Women's Dinner** - May 14th