

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Stephen's Prayer Forgiving Others

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
August 6, 2022



Why is forgiving others so important and how do we do it?

Acts 6:8-12 (NLT) Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. ⁹ But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. ¹⁰ None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. ¹¹ So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." ¹² This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council.

- Stephen was **full** of God's grace and power.
- Stephen was **faithful** to proclaim God's **love**.

How is God trying to get your attention? Where do you see God's goodness in your life?

Acts 7:51-59 (NLT) "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! ⁵² Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. ⁵³ You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." ⁵⁴ The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honour at God's right hand. ⁵⁶ And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honour at God's right hand!" ⁵⁷ Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him ⁵⁸ and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

Matthew 9:1-6 (NLT) Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ² Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven." ³ But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?" ⁴ Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? ⁶ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

- Jesus absorbed our **debt**, He paid the cost of our **sin**.
- Stephen **forgave** because he had been **forgiven**.

Luke 23:34 (NLT) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

- **Forgiven** people **forgive**.

Ephesians 4:30-32 "And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

- To forgive is to **release** the **debt** that others owe me.

Big Idea: Forgive as you have been forgiven.

How do we apply this today?

- **Receive God's forgiveness by embracing Christ as your Saviour & King.**
- **Extend forgiveness to others.**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Stephen's Prayer Forgiving Others
#5 of 10 - August 6, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at David's prayer of thanksgiving from Psalm 30. How has the Lord been speaking to you about thanksgiving. What have you been applying from this message?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read Acts 6:8-12 and Acts 7:51-59. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does this reveal about forgiveness to us? How is Stephen able to forgive people who are hurting him?
- 6) What does Matthew 9:1-6 tell us about Christ and forgiveness. How is Christ able to forgive us and how does Jesus absorb our debt? How does this empower us to forgive others?
- 7) Read Ephesians 4:30-32. What are we called to do as followers of Christ.
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? In what way is God asking you to forgive as you have been forgiven.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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