

Monsters

Unforgiveness

3.8.20

Intro:

“Around one in four practicing Christians (23%) has a person in their life who “they just can’t forgive.” <https://www.barna.com>

What is forgiveness?

Steven J. Cole,

- To release the offender from the guilt of his sin.
- To refuse to bring up the offense to use against the offender

- To refuse to think about the offense.
- To refuse to talk to others about the offense.

Observations:

Everybody has probably been told to “move on”

II Timothy 4: ¹⁶The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death.^[b] ¹⁸Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

Everybody’s wound is different.

Direct wounds

Genesis 37:¹¹ But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph,

²³So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. ²⁴Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁸So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces^[d] of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

Indirect wounds

II Samuel 13:

²⁰ Her brother Absalom saw her and asked, "Is it true that Amnon has been with you? Well, my sister, keep quiet for now, since he's your brother. Don't you worry about it." So Tamar lived as a desolate woman in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹ When King David heard what had happened, he was very angry.^[d] ²² And though Absalom never spoke to Amnon about this, he hated Amnon deeply because of what he had done to his sister.

²³ Two years later, when Absalom's sheep were being sheared at Baal-hazor near Ephraim, Absalom invited all the king's sons to come to a feast. ²⁴ He went to the king and said, "My sheep-shearers are now at work. Would the king and his servants please come to celebrate the occasion with me?"

²⁸ Absalom told his men, "Wait until Amnon gets drunk; then at my signal, kill him! Don't be afraid. I'm the one who has given the command. Take courage and do it!" ²⁹ So at Absalom's signal they murdered Amnon. Then the other sons of the king jumped on their mules and fled.

Everybody's ability to forgive is different

Environment

Personality

Personal experience with failure and forgiveness

Luke 7: ⁴⁷ "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

Personal "closeness" with Jesus

Acts 7: 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 honor 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 honor at God's right hand!"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.

The ability to forgive is connected to our "closeness" to Jesus

"full of the Holy Spirit//////"Lord, don't charge them with this sin!"

Close:

Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and realising you were the prisoner!

Max Lucado