

Fresh Life - Part 3

It Doesn't Add Up

Big Picture

Jesus answered a lot of questions while He was on earth. One of the questions that He answered was about forgiveness, how many times you should forgive, and what do you do when someone sins against you.

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18

Discussion: How do I lose count?

Read Matthew 5:33-34

1. Recognize a few things:

Those who hurt us the most are the ones we love the most.

Question: Who in your life have you experienced hurt from?

The best of you is often only brought by the worst done to you.

Reflection: Think on a time when you have been hurt, are you still a "victim" to this hurt, or have you forgiven and moved on?

If you don't foster healing, you'll have festering bitterness.

Question: Do you know someone who is always bitter? Are you that person?

2. Pray for them

Read Matthew 5:43-44

You can't pray for someone and hate someone at the same time.

Question: Have you ever truly prayed for someone that hurt you?

Did your attitude toward them change?

2. Bless them

Read Romans 12:14

Question: What does "blessing" someone look like to you? How does blessing someone you love vs. blessing someone you don't like, look different?

3. Do good to them

Read Romans 12:17-19

God did not ask us to like these verses but He did ask us to obey them because it bring us into HIS reality.

Question: How does God view those that hurt you? Is His love towards them different than His love for you? Did Jesus die for all of us or just some of us?

Next Steps

Why don't we forgive?

We misunderstand forgiveness

It's not minimizing the seriousness of the offense.

It's not reconciliation.

It's not ignoring what happened.

It's not fair

Fairness is a losing battle. Fairness often overlooks context. Read Matthew 18 about the behavior of the forgiven servant. He tried to play the fairness game but only when it meant he was re-paid, not when he owed a debt. Oftentimes, this is us in our lives.

I just can't do it

It can happen if God gives me the strength to do it. God does give you the strength: Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through CHRIST who gives me strength.

The Forgiven Forgive

Pray

God forgive me, I had an inexcusable debt I could not pay, I receive Jesus who is your forgiveness, the one who died in my place. I give my life to you in return. Would you teach me now to walk in step with you. Would you teach me to have the capacity to forgive like you do. Break the curse of offense off my life today. I want to trust and obey you even when I don't feel it. Lord, set me free from the prison of offense and give us the strength to obey you.