

:: summary

Forgiveness is not easy, it is hard. It is much easier to write another person off. It is much easier to hold onto righteous indignation, it is much easier to condemn and look down on the offender, to focus on your rights being violated and your hurt and woundedness. Doing the hard work of forgiveness however, leads to freedom, restored relationship and even spiritual transformation of another as radical grace is released into someone's life through your act of forgiveness.

:: explore and discuss

Whether intentional or unintentional, we have all been hurt by wrongdoing, betrayal, bullying, personal violations, and actions by those in authority over us.

Share an experience from your past where the hurt was deep and just the idea of forgiving was hard.

Read Matthew 18:21-22

Honest assessment: What does forgiveness look like in your life: a) zero tolerance, b) "I forgive you this time, but don't let it happen again," c) keeping a count of how many times you have forgiven the person, d) unlimited forgiveness ("seventy seven times") based on true repentance, e) a combination (share which ones).

Forgiveness is not ... (fill in the blank and explain).

Read Matthew 18:23-27

In v. 27, of Jesus' parable, what is stunning about the master's response to the servant's plea? What does this response teach about the heart of God?

Read Matthew 18:28-35

How is v. 33 meant by Jesus to be a life principle for us?

Repentance + Forgiveness = Restored Relationship. How is this a reflection of God's grace to you?

How do you receive Jesus' teaching in v. 35?

:: make it personal

What does eliminating the assumption that "I am always right about them fully being wrong" (i.e. (it's *all* their fault) have to do with forgiveness and reconciliation?

In the present moment, is unforgiveness impacting your life? Share how it is hurting you and what freedom from unforgiveness in this situation might look like.

Pick one of these statements Pastor Mike shared and discuss how it is important for you right now: In forgiveness, there is freedom. Forgiving is based in humility. Forgiveness includes the possibility that you have been in the wrong too! Forgiveness is offered in the midst of hurts that cannot be undone. Forgiveness starts with faith not feelings.

:: pray

Pray for each other the faith to forgive and for conviction that God will work through you as you forgive. Thank God for his unlimited forgiveness.

For more details and messages in this series, visit: [Messages](#).

To see notes from Sunday's message, please click: [Message Notes](#).