

HOUSE OF MIRACLES – PART III

FRIENDLY FIRE: HOW TO FORGIVE THE ONES WE LOVE

If "family" is the sweetest word, why is it that so much pain happens in our families? How should we respond when hurt, betrayed, or emotionally scarred by the people we call family? Families break God when they inflict pain on one another. That is why he demonstrated forgiveness when he died for our sins. Forgiveness opens the door for miracles in our homes.

You might have heard the name Clara Barton; after the Civil War, she helped organize the American Red Cross. One day, when reminded of a horrible thing from the past, Clara acted as if she had never heard about the incident. When asked, don't you remember this happening? Clara replied, no, I distinctly remember forgetting it.

- Forgiveness is hard because it is hard to forgive!

For *it* is not an enemy *who* reproaches me; then I could bear *it*. Nor *is it* one *who* hates me who has exalted *himself* against me; then I could hide from him. ¹³ But *it was* you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance.¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together, *And* walked to the house of God in the throng (PSALM 55:12-14, NKJV).

This isn't the neighborhood bully mocking me—I could take that. This isn't a foreign devil spitting invective—I could tune that out. It's *you*! We grew up together! *You*! My best friend! Those long hours of leisure as we walked arm in arm, God a third party to our conversation (PSALM 55:12-14, THE MESSAGE).

- The people who are the closest to you will hurt you the most!

FORGIVENESS IS NEVER:

1. Pretending that it never happened
2. An emotion that signals that we behave in a certain way
3. Predicated on what happened in the past
4. Just a gift that we give to the offender

FORGIVENESS IS:

1. A choice that we make, and we continue to make
 - a. I will not allow my hurt to haunt me.
2. A change in my behavior based on my choice
3. A reminder of just how much God has forgiven me
4. A gift that we give to ourselves

Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others (COLOSSIANS 3:13, NLT).

WHY FORGIVE IN OUR FAMILIES:

- Because we are sinners
- Because it is a command
- Because motion produces friction
- Because Satan loves confusion

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven" ²³ "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶ "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. ³¹ "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on

you?’ ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.” (MATTHEW 18:21-35, NLT)

After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father’s burial. ¹⁵ But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said.

¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us ¹⁷ to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So, we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. ¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So, he reassured them by speaking kindly to them (GENESIS 50:14-21, NIV).

WHO DO I NEED TO FORGIVE?

WHAT DO I NEED FORGIVENESS FOR?