

Encountering Freedom in 2025 - 5 - FORGIVING

I. JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE

A. TWO WAYS TO RESOLVE INJUSTICE

1. THE SWORD OF JUSTICE - *JUSTICE IS NOT REVENGE*

ROMANS 13:3 *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

- **LEADERS BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF JUSTICE**

Psa. 97:2 *Clouds and darkness surround Him;
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.*

- **PEACE IS THE FRUIT OF JUSTICE**

Is. 9:7 *Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.*

- **FORGIVENESS DOES NOT REPLACE JUSTICE**

Rom. 3:23 *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. **This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶** for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. **God did this to demonstrate his righteousness**, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.*

2. FORGIVENESS CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

- **ERICA KIRK** - *"I forgive that man"*
- **TIM ALLEN** - *When Erika Kirk spoke the words on the man who killed her husband: "That man... that young man... I forgive him." That moment deeply affected me. **I have struggled for over 60 years to forgive the man who killed my Dad.** I will say those words now as I type: **"I forgive the man who killed my father."** Peace be with you all.*
- **FORGIVENESS DISARMS EVIL** - *When we hold onto offense it empowers evil to work against us. When we forgive, it releases grace in our life.*

ILLUSTRATION - WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IN OUR COUNTRY IS MONUMENTAL. DON'T MISS IT! Watch the memorial service yourself. Don't depend on the reports of others. THE FRUIT OF FORGIVENESS IS CHANGING OUR NATION

JOHN 12:24 - *unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain (FRUIT).*

- **CHARLIE KIRK DEAD AT 12:24 (12:23.55 CARRIED AWAY)**
- **WHEN SHOULD YOU FORGIVE?**

Mark 11:25 *"And **WHENEVER YOU STAND PRAYING**, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.²⁶ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*

3. ALL JUSTICE IS NOW IN THE CROSS - PAYMENT IS THERE!

- **THE BLOOD OF JESUS SPEAKS A BETTER WORD**

Heb. 12:24 *to Jesus the Mediator **of** the new covenant, and to the **blood of** sprinkling that speaks better things than that **of Abel**.*

- **THE LORD - VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY**
- **JESUS' BLOOD COVERS MY SIN AND THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST ME**

Col. 2:13 NLT You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ **He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.** ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities (**THEY HAVE NO REAL WEAPONS** - *Deception, Intimidation and Temptation*). He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

- **ENEMY IS DISARMED AND DEFEATED!**
He has no arms to grab you and no feet to chase you! DAD JOKE
- **WE ARE AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION!**

2 COR 5:19 *that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...*

- **Breaking the Cycle of Injustice - EVERYONE HAS AN EXCUSE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR AND EVERYONE HAS SOMEONE TO BLAME** *That cycle never stops except through forgiveness.*

ILLUSTRATION - PEOPLE GET STUCK AT POINT OF THEIR PAIN.
ERICA KIRK HELPED TIM ALLEN AND OTHERS. REMOVING THE WEIGHT OF OFFENSE THROUGH FORGIVENESS BRINGS HEALING- RELEASE FROM CHAINS FOR EMOTIONAL CAPTIVES.

II. FORGIVING INJUSTICE

- A. JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE** - *Joseph processed all the evil treatment he had received from his brothers. He struggled through it all and when his brothers arrived, he received them.*

Gen. 50:19 *Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for **am I in the place of God?** 20 But as for you, **you meant evil against me**; but **God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

B. THE CORROSIVE POWER OF OFFENSE

- **YOU WILL NEVER BE FREE IF YOU CANNOT LEARN TO FORGIVE OTHERS**

- ***AN OFFENDED HEART MAKES US POWERLESS. WE BECOME CAPTIVE TO THE ONE WHO OFFENDS US.***
- ***UNRESOLVED OFFENSE IN OUR HEART WILL RIPEN INTO BITTERNESS AND HATRED***

C. RESTORING OUR HEART - THREE TYPES OF FORGIVENESS

- **THE FORGIVENESS OF RECONCILIATION WITH GOD**
- **THE FORGIVENESS OF RECONCILIATION WITH OTHERS**
- **THE FORGIVENESS THAT RECONCILES MY HEART - WE ARE POWERFUL PEOPLE WHO DO NOT ALLOW THE ACTS OF OTHERS CONTROL THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART**

Psa. 86:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; ***Unite my heart*** to fear Your name.

III. JUSTICE NOW - LEARNING TO SEE LIKE GOD SEES

Matt. 7:1 “Judge not, that you be not judged.”² *For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*³ *And why do you look at the **speck in your brother’s eye**, but do not **consider the plank in your own eye**?*⁴ *Or how can you say to your brother, “Let me remove the speck from your eye”; and look, a plank is in your own eye?*⁵ *Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.*

- **SPECKS AND PLANKS have to do with HOW WE SEE**
- **Specks are the faults, mistakes and sins of others against us.**
- **Planks are the offenses we have that get in the way of clear vision**
- **FORGIVENESS IS THE ONLY WAY TO REMOVE A PLANK**
- **WHEN WE FORGIVE WE BEGIN TO SEE LIKE GOD SEES AND THE DISPLAY OF HIS JUSTICE WILL INCREASES ON THE EARTH**