

Christmas 2019

Christmas and the Impact of Others Because of Your Story

12-15-19

Isaiah 1:18 - "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

God wants us to be people of forgiveness because...

1. We are _____ forgiven human beings.

Luke 19:2-3, 8 - A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was. . . ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Forgiveness is not approving the action; forgiveness is releasing it from controlling you.

2. An unforgiving spirit can _____ my life.

Matthew 18:25-30, 35 - Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. . . ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

3. We will need an _____ of forgiveness in the future.

Genesis 37- 47

Genesis 45:1-5 - Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." NIV

Key: if you haven't made peace with your past, there is no way your future can flourish.

4. Blessings will _____
in our account when we give and receive forgiveness.

TWO SUGGESTIONS:

Make a _____.

Give the _____ of forgiveness this Christmas.

Romans 12:18-19 - **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you**, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.