

Who Said - "Forgiving is easy?"

Pastor Eddie Turner

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Matt. 18:21-35(NLT)- 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.”

“everybody has problems; everyone has baggage.”

Most travelers retrieve their baggage and roll it out. Their bags don't hinder their journey or their life. In fact, their bags carry important items that make their life more comfortable and functional. They have given thought to packing their bags and made sure their bags were not a burden to their journey.

It's the same way in life. We all have baggage. Each of us have bruises, wounds and some things that have been broke. We can get them bandaged, packed and healed up-or we can allow them to stay irritated, get infected and hinder us on our life's journey.

Living life without collecting some baggage is an impossibility:

In life, someone is going to hurt your heart. Someone will abandon or leave you. Even in church, someone will say something hurtful.

~~~~~  
Regardless of how loyal and loving we try to be-someone is going to let us down, lie to us, stab us in the back or reject us. It's called life!

~~~~~  
Getting hurt is a part of life. But it doesn't have to be the end of our story and we don't have to live with open wounds or carry burdensome and heavy baggage around the rest of our lives! God desires that we be healed and whole regardless of how severe or painful our hurt has been.

Isaiah 30:26(NKJV)- Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.

Today-you may be living with a hurt or wound that was caused by a wrong decision or ungodly behavior. Hear this- the Lord says your suffering for that poor choice and rebellious decision is enough-He wants to make all things new and heal your wound!

FORGIVENESS!

Forgiveness is a relatively easy word to pronounce-but it can often be a difficult deed to do.

The daily struggle each of us encounter is keeping our flesh nature under submission and allowing the Christ nature which lives on the inside of us to reign and operate.

1 Peter 3:8-11 (NLT)- Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. ¹⁰ For the Scriptures say,

“If you want to enjoy life
and see many happy days,
keep your tongue from speaking evil
and your lips from telling lies.
¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good.
Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

Forgiveness is Not Optional
1). Forgiveness puts an end to the pain of the hurt:

The biblical word “forgive”- means to cancel, send away, remit, dismiss and release.

When I refuse to forgive, I allow the abuse, rejection and betrayal which occurred in my past to stay present in my life.

When I forgive someone of their wrong-I release that wrong's control over me; I cancel the abuse's effects in my life; I dismiss the pain from continuing to plague me and I send away the reoccurring nightmare of that hurtful event.

Philippians 3:13-15 (NIV)- ³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

~~~~~

One of the errant myths regarding forgiveness is, “if you forgive someone you will forget all about it...”

~~~~~

Forgiveness is a decision of your will; forgetting is an exercise of your memory. Forgiveness can take place instantly; forgetting is a process.

~~~~~

Forgetting a painful moment or event will never occur if I do not choose to forgive. Because if I don't forgive, I don't send the painful event away-it remains in my present.

~~~~~

Forgiveness is Not Optional

1). Forgiveness puts an end to the pain of the hurt:

2). Forgiveness extended results in forgiveness received

~~~~~

Mark 11:22-26(NLT)- <sup>22</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

-----

Matt. 6:9-12(KJV)- After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.<sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

~~~~~  
Matt. 18:23-35(NLT)- 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.”

~~~~~  
Col. 3:12-13(NLT)- <sup>2</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

~~~~~  
Forgiveness is Not Optional

- 1). Forgiveness puts an end to the pain of the hurt:
- 2). Forgiveness extended results in forgiveness received
- 3). Forgiveness protects me from spiritual decay

~~~~~  
Unforgiveness is like an untreated cancer-it will spread to other parts of your life.

~~~~~  
Unforgiveness is contagious-it will adversely contaminate others.

~~~~~  
Heb. 12:14-15(NLT) Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

~~~~~  
Unforgiveness opens the door for satanic influence in my life.

~~~~~  
James 3:14-16(NIV)- But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.