

Today's Theme

"The Dilemma of Forgiveness"

Series Title

"Making Much of Jesus"

Part 17 July 31, 2022

1. We need Jesus and His *forgiveness*.

Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

2. We need to be *real deal* forgivers.

Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

3. We need to get the *why* of my forgiveness.

- (1) Because we've been *forgiven* ourselves.
- (2) Because Jesus has *taught* us to forgive.
- (3) It can be very *hard* to actually forgive.
- (4) *Refusing* to forgive others can *mess up* our life.
- (5) A principle of life: We *reproduce* what we are.

4. What being an *ineffective* forgiver brings.

(1) It produces *pain & hurt* that can last.
Psalm 140:3 They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's; the poison of vipers is on their lips.

(2) We can end up *bitter* and grow *toxic*.
Heb 12:15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

(3) Non-forgivers live *looking in rear view* mirror.
Acts 17:29-31 (Letting go is hard)

(4) We can secretly be playing *God with retaliation*.
Rom 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

5. What being a *good* forgiver brings.

(1) Comes from love & *affirms* love.
John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

(2) Shows *mercy* to others.
2 Cor 2:6 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. 7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

(3) Helps us to move *away from pride*.
Gen 45:5 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.

(4) Takes a *stand* against *evil*.
Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 2 Cor 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

(5) Ignites & continues *joy & peace*.
Rom 8:1-2 Acts 13:38 "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.