

February 17, 2019
Tales of the Kingdom
Forgiving Others?
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Matthew 18:15 - 35

Forgiveness starts with introspection.

Matthew 18:32-35 Ephesians 4:32 Matthew 6:9-15

Forgiving is a choice that is not always easy.

Luke 23:34

Forgiveness gives God control.

Romans 12:19

Forgiveness is a Kingdom principle

Matthew 6:12-15 Col 3:12 -13

"FORGIVING OTHERS" - Why It's Way More Important Than Most People Think It Is.

Forgiveness tends to be more of a journey than an event. Sometimes we don't want to be on that journey. What are some of the reasons we give for holding on to a grudge or not forgiving?

Often we think of forgiveness in the context of letting go after we've been greatly wronged. But we also face issues of forgiveness in our daily life. What are some of the small things that happen to us in which we also need to ask for or offer forgiveness?

To forgive means to cancel the debt an individual owes because he or she committed an offense. God is the ultimate Forgiver, and He forgives on the basis of Jesus' shed blood on the cross. People who have been forgiven by God are also to forgive others.

Forgiveness tends to be more of a journey than an event.

What does it mean to ask forgiveness or to forgive someone?

Many times we don't want to be on that journey. What are some reasons we hold onto a grudge or not want to forgive?

Why do you think it is difficult to forgive those who hurt you?

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-13, Romans 12:14-21

How and why do you think David was able to not seek justice for himself?

What is the most challenging aspect for you in not seeking justice or revenge?

How can these 2 passages help motivate us to forgive instead of seeking revenge?

One aspect of maintaining a healthy relationship is learning to quickly ask for forgiveness when we've wronged someone. In Genesis, we read about the reconciliation between Jacob and Esau.

Read Genesis 32:6-11; 33:1-12.

What principles of asking for forgiveness or pursuing reconciliation do you see in this story?

What emotions do you think Jacob experienced in this process? How about Esau?

What did each person have to wrestle with in their own lives to reach the point of forgiveness?

Sometimes, the person we need to forgive is ourselves. We have read scripture that shows how forgiving God is to all of us. If God has forgiven you, why are you still down in the dumps about what you did?

Why is it more difficult to forgive ourselves sometimes than to forgive others?

Read 1 John 1:9

What does it take to accept and believe that scripture?

Why is it so important to realize our own forgiveness?

Consider who it is you may need to forgive. How can you be more like God to these people and extend forgiveness. What is the first step you need to take?