

Forgiveness and Repentance Workshop 04.04.15

Prov 18:19

A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city; disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel. (NIV)

A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a citadel. (NASB)

Discussion passages 1

Matthew 18:21-25, Luke 17:3-4

Luke 7:41-47

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

1. Read the passage together
2. What does this passage say about forgiveness and/or mercy?
3. Based on the passage, how is forgiveness possible?

Discussion passages 2

Great commandment Mt 22:37-40

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (see also RSV and AMP)

1. Read the passage together.
2. What does the passage say about loving others (what is the relational quality of love? How does love play out in relationships)?

Discussion passages - other

BOTH – Luke 15:11-31

Joseph

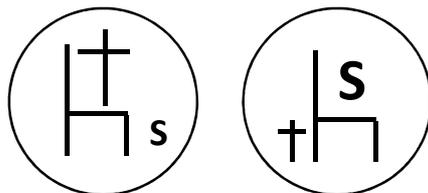
Jonah

1. What were some (potential) reasons that stopped these people from forgiving others?
2. How did God teach them to forgive others? What experiences did He bring them through?

Focus

Romans 5:6-8

- This is our starting position, our foundation, the basis of our relationship with others
- From a worldly view, if I have an argument with someone, there's just 2 people in the room, and it's really your opinion versus my opinion, going nowhere. But if God is in the picture, suddenly it's not about our opinion, but God's opinion, and we strive to reach a resolution that pleases God, not one that's good for you or good for me.
- Lordship circles



- What is my part, what is their part? What am I responsible for?

Reflection

1 John 4:7-21

1. Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Someone or a group of people that you hold a grudge against? Anyone who is an annoyance to you? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you who these people might be (it's ok if you can't think of any).
 - a. If you can think of someone, what are some steps you can take to be reconciled to them? Think through the parts of the process that are your responsibility (e.g. forgiving them in your heart, saying sorry to God and the person for the bad bits you did)
2. For each of us, there are always things that will annoy us (think along the lines of pet peeves, but more serious issues). Can you decide on some strategies now that could be helpful in future situations?

Concluding remarks

When we forgive those who don't deserve to be forgiven, we are copying God

We can only forgive in the power of Holy Spirit, remembering that for all things that God commands, He is also the One who provides the necessary resources to do it (strength/power/opportunity/means/ability etc.).

Unforgiveness in our hearts blocks us from having deeper intimacy with God.

Does receiving forgiveness always produce good fruit in a person?

(regarding Matthew 18:23-35)

“The heartlessness of the forgiven man—along with his utter disregard of his obligation to emulate the gracious example of his king—is sin. Compared to our offenses against God, the offenses that our brethren commit against us are small and insignificant. Since God has forgiven us so much, we ought to forgive each other of anything, large or small. Grace bestowed puts the receiver under obligation to manifest the same grace to others. Even though a person receives forgiveness, it does not guarantee that he will be a better person. “

(Source: <http://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/BS/k/770/Parable-of-Unforgiving-Servant.htm>)

Other passages about forgiveness/mercy/our relationship with others

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Mark 11:24-25

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Colossians 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.

2 Corinthians 2:5

If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1 Peter 3:8-9

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

James 2:13

... judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.