

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

Look for our event!



Forgiveness

“Character Counts” - Week Nine

3/07/2021

Matthew 18:27 -

And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Hebrews 12:15 -

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

Forgiveness is making a conscious decision to drop the backpack of grudges you have been carrying around, to let them go and leave them behind, and in the process, tear up the debt of repayment for someone's wrongdoing.

~**Merritt, James**

Character Still Counts (p. 198)

1) Forgiveness is from God

Romans 5:8 -

God demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2) Forgiveness is in Christ

I John 2:1-2 -

If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

3) Forgiveness is Personal

Psalm 103:12 -

As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm 32:1-2 -

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

4) Forgiveness is Practical

Genesis 50:15-19 -

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the...

4) Forgiveness is Practical

Genesis 50:15-19 -

transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?”

5) Forgiveness Takes Offense Seriously

II Corinthians 5:19-21 -

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them...For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

5) Forgiveness Takes Offense Seriously

“Condemnation is not the heart of forgiveness. It’s the indispensable presupposition of it. The heart of forgiveness is the generous release of a genuine debt.”

~Miraslov Volf, Free of Charge

6) Forgiveness Doesn't Require Admission of Guilt

7) Forgiveness is Consistent with Justice

I Peter 2:22-23 -

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

7) Forgiveness is Consistent with Justice

“Without entrusting oneself to the God who judges justly, it will hardly be possible to follow the crucified Messiah and refuse to retaliate when abused. The certainty of God’s just judgment at the end of history is the presupposition for the renunciation of violence in the middle of it.”

~Miroslav Volf, *Exculsion & Embrace*, 302

8) Forgiveness is Evidence of Trust

Genesis 50:20 -

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

9) Forgiveness Acts

Genesis 50:21 -

“So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.