

Heritage Alliance Church January 28, 2024 Pastor Shawn Hubert

Anger, Enemies, and Forgiveness

The Heart of the Money & Worry – Matthew 5:21-24, 38-48, 6:12-15

"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."

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

"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."

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is NOT FAIR – unmerited gift

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

Forgiveness is NOT FORGETTING – Remember no more?

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Hebrews 8:12

Forgiveness is NOT EXCUSING

"...people are without excuse." Romans 1:20
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Forgiveness is NOT RECONCILING

"We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

FORGIVENESS IS...

- Not demanding repayment for something they cannot repay you.
- A Step of obedience following Jesus in His ways
- Trusting in the justice of the Father
- The only way to heal brokenness

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:26-32

Journey towards forgiveness

- 1. IDENTIFY with whom you are angry
- 2. <u>DETERMINE</u> and <u>NAME</u> what they owe you
- 3. Decide to $\underline{\mathsf{CANCEL}}$ the debt
- 4. DISMISS the case as it resurfaces.