

Breathing Hope



Part 2: Reflecting Grace & Mercy

September 25th, 2022

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"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

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants... The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when THAT servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him... 'Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:22-35

"So, if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."

Matthew 5:21-25

"You've heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' but I tell you, do not resist an evil person... You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:38-48

"The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord, The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin."

Exodus 34:6

Forgiveness is not FAIR

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

Romans 5:8

You will never be asked to do something for someone that Jesus hasn't already done for you.

Forgiveness is NOT _____

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FORGIVENESS IS...

- Accepting and canceling the debt
- A Step of obedience following Jesus in His ways
- Trusting in the justice of the Father
- The only way to begin healing brokenness

"When you forgive someone, you are dancing to the rhythm of the divine heartbeat... God invented forgiveness as the only way to keep his romance with the human race alive."

Lewis Smedes

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins". Matthew 6:14-15

Reflection Questions:

When the topic of forgiveness comes up, what do you think about? Worry about?

If forgiveness is not fair, why should we?

When you heard what forgiveness isn't, does it make it easier to forgive?

When it comes to what forgiveness IS, which of those brings up the most concern?

What is the most difficult part of forgiveness for you?

Do you get a sense of who God wants you to forgive?