



Outrageous: Forgiveness, Part 2

LUKE 17:7-10 | JANUARY 30 & 31, 2016

Last week we began a short series called Outrageous. It's based on some of the startling ways we are called to display generosity. From Luke 17:1-6 we saw just how generous Jesus expects us to be with forgiveness. In this study we continue the topic of forgiveness and ask the question: how exactly do we forgive someone, especially when we can't? What do we do when we've tried to forgive, but our hearts won't let us?

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What is an example of something happening that once seemed impossible? It could be anything—in your life, a story you heard, an event—anything that at one time seemed not to be possible, but did in fact occur.



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

In Luke 17:7-10 Jesus gives his disciples perspective on who they are. They are a forgiven people—forgiven by God. He has paid their debt of sin, and they now enjoy the privilege of being his servants. As servants of God (a high honor, by the way), it would be hypocritical not to forgive as he has done and as he requires.

Even if you have been forgiven by God and recognize his call to forgive, what barriers exist that hinder you from forgiving others in your life? From forgiving yourself?

In the sermon, Pastor Mike taught that forgiveness is often granted and practiced before it is felt. Think of a person you struggle to forgive. What would it look like for you to grant and practice forgiveness regardless of how you feel toward that person?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What are some specific things for which you've asked forgiveness from God? Do you believe that he has forgiven you and has chosen to bless you with his love despite your wrongdoing? How often do you dwell on God's forgiveness of you?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Pastor Mike offered three necessary steps to forgiveness when it does not come easily. First, refuse to demonize the wrongdoer by reducing them to what they have done to us. Second, ask God to do in us what we cannot do in our own strength. Third, inwardly surrender the right to repayment, and pay the debt ourselves. In other words, do not return hurt for hurt, but bless those who curse us.

Which of these is the greatest challenge for you? In a specific situation, how can you begin the process of forgiveness?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Matthew 7:1-5. What added perspective does Jesus' teaching on judging others bring? How does it inform our approach to forgiveness?