



The Hardest Math - Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Philemon 1:4-21

*⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have **refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.** ⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.*

Forgiveness doesn't mean you no longer feel the hurt.

Forgiveness doesn't mean you never think about it ever again.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that you must have a relationship with the person again.

Forgiveness is NOT A ONE-TIME event.

"Forgiveness is releasing another from your own personal judgement. It does not mean you agree with what they said, or what they did. It simply means that you will not act as his or her judge." — Catherine Marshall

Matthew 6:12 (NLT) **"And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."**

Psalms 130:3-4 (NIV) ³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Colossians 3:13
Tuesday: Matthew 6:14-15

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:31-32
Thursday: Acts 3:9

Friday: Isaiah 1:18
Saturday: Book of Philemon

Talk it Over:

1. Is there a situation in your life where you are struggling to forgive? Are you struggling to forgive yourself?
2. Why do we have to forgive?
3. Can we obey the greatest commandment without forgiveness?
4. **What characteristics in your life might indicate that you haven't fully forgiven past hurts,** even if you know in your head what you need to do?

Pastor Loyd's Prayer Requests

Monday: Pray for families going on vacation for traveling mercies.

Tuesday: Pray for persons being married in June—especially those from our church.

Wednesday: Pray for God's will to be done in the sale of our church's land.

Thursday: **Pray for Pastor Brian as he, with God's help, leads CCON.**

Friday: Pray for each staff member—pastoral and support staff.

Saturday: Pray for Pastor Katie and all her workers at Vacation Bible School (June 13-17.)