

“From Forgiven To Forgiving”
Sunday, November 10, 2024
Guest Speaker: Doug Finlayson

1. Introduction

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which [is] the great commandment in the law?"

[Matthew 22:36 NKJV]

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [Matthew 22:37 NKJV]

"This is [the] first and great commandment. [Matthew 22:38 NKJV]

"And [the] second [is] like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [Matthew 22:39 NKJV]

"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." [Matthew 22:40 NKJV]

That is what the life of a Christian is all about: Loving God and loving others!! That is the life that glorifies God.

It is recorded in John 13:34-35 that the Jesus said:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [John 13:34 NKJV]

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." [John 13:35 NKJV]

What do think interferes with our ability to love one another?

2. What is forgiveness?

Forgiveness is defined as to bestow a favor unconditionally, to let loose from, to release, to send away, to let go.

3. Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" [Matthew 18:21 NKJV]

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. [Matthew 18:22 NKJV]

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. [Matthew 18:23 NKJV]

"And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. [Matthew 18:24 NKJV]

"But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. [Matthew 18:25 NKJV]

"The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' [Matthew 18:26 NKJV]

"Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. [Matthew 18:27 NKJV]

"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took [him] by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' [Matthew 18:28 NKJV]

"So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' [Matthew 18:29 NKJV]

"And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. [Matthew 18:30 NKJV]

"So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. [Matthew 18:31 NKJV]

"Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. [Matthew 18:32 NKJV]

'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' [Matthew 18:33 NKJV]

"And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. [Matthew 18:34 NKJV]

"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." [Matthew 18:35 NKJV]

4. Teaching (Interpretation, Application)

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. [Mar 6:34 NKJV]

Who is like the first servant in the story in terms of owing an impossible debt??

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [John 3:16 NKJV]

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. [John 3:17 NKJV]

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: [John 1:12 NKJV]

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [Eph 4:30 NKJV]

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. [Eph 4:31 NKJV]

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. [Eph 4:32 NKJV]

Therefore, as [the] elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; [Col 3:12 NKJV]

bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also [must do]. [Col 3:13 NKJV]

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. [Col 3:14 NKJV]

5. Why should we forgive?

6. In many situations it is difficult or even impossible to forgive absent God's divine help.

Rom 12:17-19

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. [Rom 12:17 NKJV]

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. [Rom 12:18 NKJV]

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. [Rom 12:19 NKJV]

7. Jesus in not teaching about loss of salvation in verse 35

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [Rom 8:38 NKJV]

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Rom 8:39 NKJV]

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, [Eph 2:8 NKJV]

not of works, lest anyone should boast. [Eph 2:9 NKJV]

8. Unforgiveness is sin which interferes with out fellowship with God

It is interesting to me, that bitterness or unforgiveness affects the person refusing to forgive, and not the other person. Someone said, "Bitterness is the poison we drink hoping someone else dies." When we refuse or fail to forgive, bitterness interferes with our health, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God.

9. How can we forgive?

a. Humility

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, [Phl 2:5 NKJV]

who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [Phl 2:6 NKJV]

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. [Phl 2:7 NKJV]

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross. [Phl 2:8 NKJV]

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory, [2 Co 4:17 NKJV]

while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen [are] temporary, but the things which are not seen [are] eternal. [2Co 4:18 NKJV]

b. Confession

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:9 NKJV]

c. Filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit

10. When are we to forgive?

11. Invitation to forgive

Jesus is our example. From the cross, after all he suffered Jesus said, "Forgive them, they know not what they do."

Forgiveness is the first step. It takes one person to forgive. It takes two people to reconcile.