

# Truth Matters: How do I Forgive?

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – June 12, 2011

## Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 "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. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Personal forgiveness from God is...

## **1. UNMISTAKABLY LINKED TO OUR WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE OTHERS**

Matt 6:12 [Jesus taught us to pray]

"Forgive us our debts (trespasses, sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Matt 18:35 (today's text)

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 6:14-15 (immediately after Lord's Prayer)

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Unforgiveness is like an...

## **2. UNTREATED CANCER AND WILL DESTROY YOU**

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." (Lewis Smedes)

Unforgiveness is the root of many struggles in our life.

Jesus taught us to Forgive because He knew the power of Unforgiveness to Destroy us.

- Stress
- Depression
- Lack of Trust
- Health Problems
- Cynicism
- Anger
- Fear

The power of forgiveness is...

## **3. PERFECTLY DEMONSTRATED BY JESUS ON THE CROSS**

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

CONCLUSION:

2 questions on forgiveness: (Lewis Smedes)

### **1. IS IT FAIR?**

The only fair thing for the person that has been wounded, is to be healed. And the only way to be healed, is to forgive.

### **2. HOW DO I FORGIVE?**

3 things you can do with wounds:

(1) Deny they exist (act as if there is no wound – live with it)

(2) Get Revenge (inflict wounds to others)

(3) Seek Healing and let it go!

THE ONLY CURE FOR THE WOUNDS OF OUR PAST IS FORGIVENESS!

WHO DO YOU NEED TO FORGIVE?

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WHO WINS IF YOU FORGIVE?

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WHO LOSES IF YOU DON'T?

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