The Wound of Unforgiveness
Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 18, 2018

Matthew 18:21-22
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.

Unforgiveness is a…

1. **BARRIER TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO US**

   Matt 6:12
   "Forgive us our debts (trespasses, sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors."

   Matthew 6:14-15
   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 THAT WILL DESTROY US**

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

   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 23:34-39
   34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

CONCLUSION:

- **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.

- **HOW DO I FORGIVE?**

  3 things you can do with wounds:
  - Deny they exist (act as if there is no wound)
  - Get Revenge (inflict wounds to others)
  - Seek Healing and let it go!