

Message Notes

Humble Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel of Matthew, Part 64

February 19, 2006

Message Outline

Humble Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel of Matthew, Part 64

February 19, 2006

What is forgiveness?

- to dismiss
- to pardon
- to release your right to revenge

Why is forgiveness so important?

- Forgiveness is at the center of the Gospel message.
- Unforgiveness is more subtle than most sins.
- Unforgiveness is more common than most sins.
- The huge cost of unforgiveness.

God's forgiveness to us (18:21-27)

- The law keeps count; grace doesn't (18:21-22)
- The slave's debt (18:24)
- The slave's response (18:26)
- God's response to our debt (18:27)

Our forgiveness to others (18:28-31)

- The unflattering picture of the slave's unforgiveness

The cost of unforgiveness (18:32-35)

- A key to forgiveness is to stop focusing on what others have done to us and focus on what Jesus has done for us! (Ephesians 4:29-5:2)
- Because God is holy and just, He is always moved with anger at sin. (Mt. 18:34; Hebrews 12:6-11)
- We will reflect God's forgiveness because we have experienced God's forgiveness. (18:35)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

Humble Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel of Matthew, Part 64

February 19, 2006

1. How would you define forgiveness? Look up the following passages and note what they have to do with the definition of forgiveness?
Romans 12:14-21
I Thessalonians 5:15-18
Proverbs 24:17
Matthew 5:43-48
2. How do humble confrontation & humble forgiveness connect with each other? Does reconciliation always take place alongside forgiveness?
3. What's meant by the statement "The law keeps count, grace doesn't?" What's the significance of "seven times" and "seventy times seven?" What's the significance of "ten thousand talents" and "a hundred denarii?"
4. This passage talks about God's forgiveness to us and then our forgiveness to others. How are they the same? How are they different?
5. How do you reconcile God's wrath & God's forgiveness? What about the statement, "Forgiving others is a distinguishing mark that you belong to Christ?"

Growth Group Application Questions

Humble Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel of Matthew, Part 64

February 19, 2006

1. What is the toughest part of forgiveness for you to live out? What has driven home the importance of forgiveness to you?
2. How is forgiveness at the center of the Gospel message?
3. Based on our passage in Matthew, is God's forgiveness to us limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional? Likewise, our forgiveness of others? Why?
4. Read Ephesians 4:29-5:2. What do these verses have to say about forgiveness and specifically the cost of unforgiveness?
5. Remember how much God has forgiven you. Really think deeply on this!! Purpose now to keep short accounts. Who can keep you accountable to this?
6. Who do you need to forgive right now? By God's grace and in His power choose to forgive those who have wronged you.