

January 18, 2015

”Forgiven And Forgiving”

Matthew 6:5-15

“Unbroken”

- There is a “story after the story”: a story of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation

Forgiveness

“Forgive us our debts [sins] as we also have forgiven our debtors [those who sin against us]” (verse 12)

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you’re your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (verses 14-15).

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins” (Mark 11:25).

“It is not that the act of forgiving merits an eternal reward, but rather it is evidence that the grace of God is at work in the forgiving person and that that same grace will bring him forgiveness in due course” (Leon Morris).

“Without forgiving others, we could not have felt the true peace that come from His forgiveness for us” (Tim Keller).

What Best Motivates Us To Forgive Others?

- The deepest and best motivator is the experience of being forgiven by God through Jesus Christ.

Remembering Jesus

“[Jesus] made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humble himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:7-8).

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God” (1 Peter 3:18)

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation” (Colossians 1:21-22).

Communion

Video: “Let Go”

Forgiving Others: Letting Go Of The Stone

- i. On your own, in your heart
- ii. Bringing a stone to the foot of the cross, during final song
- iii. Praying with others after the service