Forgving Those Who Hurt Me

Rick Liggin · Matthew 18:15–35

INTRODUCTION

- Everything that Jesus teaches here is predicated on his own character and mission. He came to seek and save that which is lost. And so saving sinners must be our goal too.
- I don't want you to think about someone else who needs to hear what we're talking about. I want you to think about you.

1 My First Obligation: Go and Reprove Him in Private

Matthew 18:15; Matthew 5:23–26; 2 Timothy 2:24–26

- My very first obligation when someone sins against me, my very first obligation is to go and reprove him in private.
- The fact that he has the duty to come to me does not relieve me of my duty.
- I want to win the sinner. Just like the Lord came to seek and save that which is lost, I have the same desire that my Lord has.
- A word that means to convict him of his fault. That is to show him what his fault is and why it's a fault.
- Remember, the goal is not to get him told, the goal is to win him, to help save his soul.

2 Peter Understood He Was Obligated to Forgive

Matthew 6:12–15; Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4

- Jesus taught that if we expect to get forgiveness from God, that we must be willing to forgive those who hurt us.
- For if you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive you your transgressions.
- It's not just that we're willing to forgive, but that we actually forgive.
- If we're unwilling to forgive, then we cannot be forgiven.

3 How Often Do I Have to Forgive?

Matthew 18:21–22; Amos 1:3; Luke 17:3–4

- Peter's suggestion proposed a limit to the number of times that we should forgive.
- Jesus basically says there is no limit on how many times I forgive. The point is that I have no right to withhold forgiveness.
- Every sin I commit is ultimately against God, too. And there is no way that I can ever repay the debt that I owe God.
- So we must forgive. How often? Always.
- It's really not my job to judge the sincerity of what he does at this moment.

4 It’s Got to Be From the Heart

Matthew 18:35; Ephesians 4:32

- It’s got to be something that’s genuine. It can’t just be a verbalization, okay, I forgive you. We’ve got to mean it.
- My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.
- The same way God has forgiven us, we need to try to forgive that person.
- But the point is that we do what we can to let that sin go.

5 Lord, Increase Our Faith

Luke 17:3–6

- The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith.
- It takes real faith to forgive as Jesus teaches us to forgive.
- It’s in your best interest to forgive, because if you don’t, that bitterness will turn to hatred.
- It’s not bulk of faith that is necessary, it’s quality of faith that is necessary.
- I have to keep remembering that no one has hurt me as bad as I’m hurting God.

THE CHALLENGE

So I appeal to us all to learn to adopt this forgiving spirit. And just remember that we want to be forgiven, so we must forgive.

MY NOTES