

Kingdom Call – Forgiveness

Forgiveness is one of those actions that everyone expects from everyone else, but when the same is expected of that person, they find it hard to forgive. This is particularly true within Christian circles. When someone confesses or found to have committed a sin, many Christians are quick to mention that we are called to forgive. However, when a person has been personally sinned against, forgiveness is suddenly very hard to come by.

Why is that? What does Jesus say about the topic of forgiveness? How many times should we forgive others? These are questions that are lurking within us on the topic of forgiveness. Let us turn to the Bible and discover for ourselves what Jesus calls us to do.

Launch

- 1) Why do you think forgiveness is so hard to be put into action? How would you rate your ability to forgive others?

A Parable on Forgiveness

Read Matthew 18:21-35

- 2) What prompted Jesus to start telling this parable? (v1)
 - a. How many times did Jesus say that we should forgive our brothers-and-sisters in Christ?
 - b. How can we begin to cultivate an attitude of forgiveness in our lives today?
- 3) In the parable that Jesus told from v23-34, how much did the servant owe the master? (v24-25)
 - a. What did the servant do when he realised that he can't pay the debt? (v26)
 - b. What was the response of the master? (v27) What do you think was the cost for the master to respond in that way?
- 4) What did the servant do to his servant who owed him a hundred silver coins? (v28-31) How does that compare to the servant's own debt to the master?
 - a. Why do you think that the other servants were outraged when they witnessed that? (v31-34)



- 5) In what way are we like the servant in this parable in our relationship to God?
 - a. What did it cost God to forgive our sins? (cf. Col 2:13-15)

- 6) Based on your answer in Question 4a, why do you think we find it hard to forgive those who have wronged us?
 - a. What are some ways that we can come to terms with the magnitude of our debt to God?

- 7) Based on v33, how can we cultivate a lifestyle of forgiveness as Jesus calls us to do so in v22?

- 8) As a small group, what can we do to help each other grow in our ability to forgive?

- 9) Write down the name of the person that you need to forgive. Share with your small group if it is appropriate and pray for one another to forgive.

Those who have been forgiven much, should forgive much as well. That is the point of the parable that Jesus told in Matthew 18:21-35. Christians are called to forgiveness as a way of life. That is because Christians know the magnitude of their sin against Almighty God, and recognise that God has forgiven them. However, sometimes we forget the cost of forgiveness, thinking that because God is God, it is easy for him to forgive us. That cannot be further from the truth, because true forgiveness is costly. The price for the forgiveness of our sins is the death of the Son of God.

Once we recognise the depths of our sinfulness and the transcendent holiness of God and yet know that God chose to forgive us despite the cost involved, it becomes easier for us to forgive. How can we not forgive others when we ourselves have been forgiven much? That is not to say that there are no earthly consequences to sin here on earth, however we are still called to forgive as Christ has forgiven us.