

# “The Never-ending Circle of Forgiveness and Love” 7/15/18

## Luke 7:36-50

Sermon Series- “What Love Looks Like- An Exposition of 1 Corinthians 13”

**Big Idea-** God desires for us to recognize that our debt has been forgiven and to show this same love and forgiveness to those that need their debt forgiven.

*“Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged” (1Cor 13:5)*

**LESSON 1-** Forgiveness can be given when we have the proper ATTITUDE

- A. The attitude the Pharisee gave was of judgmental SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (Matthew 5:20; 23:1-39; Luke 16:14-15; Matt 7:1-4)
- B. The attitude of the woman was one of courageous HUMILITY (known sinner, unbound her hair, touched a man, menial task)

**LESSON 2-** Forgiveness can be given when we have the proper ASSESSMENT

- A. The assessment we need is that of humble HONESTY (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Isaiah 64:6; Matt 18:21-35)
- B. The assessment should bring us to the place of utmost LOVE (Ephesians 2:4-9; 1 Timothy 1:12-17- Love motivated Paul’s travels)

**LESSON 3-** Forgiveness can be given when we have the proper ACTIONS

- A. The action that the woman demonstrated was unrestrained GRATITUDE (Love brings forth gratitude; she is saved by faith and receives PEACE)
- B. The action of love and gratitude should motivate us to FORGIVE (Matthew 18:35; 6:14-15; Luke 6:37; 1 John 4:19; 1 Cor 13:5)

*“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others” (Colossians 3:12-13)*

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32)*

**Going Deeper** God desires us for to love and forgive others as He has done for us!

*“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11)*

*Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples*

**Forgiveness is releasing resentment (ill will) and pardoning the one who has hurt you.**

### **Five Myths about Forgiveness**

1. Contrary to what many have been led to believe, forgiveness is not forgetting. (Hebrews 8:12; Jer 31:33-34)
2. Forgiving someone does not mean you no longer feel the pain of their offense. (not pretending the pain isn't real)
3. Forgiving someone who has sinned against you doesn't mean you cease longing for justice. (it does not condone the debt or say "it's ok")
4. Forgiveness does not mean you are to make it easy for the offender to hurt you again. (it's not the same as trusting- it's wise to set boundaries)
5. Forgiveness is rarely a one-time, climactic event.

### **Five Truths about Forgiveness**

The apostle Paul said that we are to forgive "as" God in Christ forgave us. The word "as" points to two things. We are to forgive because God forgave us. But we are also to forgive as or like or in the same manner that he forgave us. So, how did God in Christ forgive us? This leads us to the five truths about forgiveness.

1. God in Christ forgave us by absorbing in himself the destructive and painful consequences of our sin against him.
2. God forgave us in Christ by canceling the debt we owed him. That is to say, we are no longer held liable for our sins or in any way made to pay for them.
3. Forgiving others as God has forgiven us means we resolve to revoke revenge.
4. Forgiving others as God has forgiven us means that we determine to do good to them rather than evil. Read especially Romans 12:17-21.
5. God forgave us in Christ by reconciling us to himself, by restoring the relationship that our sin had shattered.

Often we avoid forgiveness because we want to avoid conflict. Going to the offender and saying, "I forgive you," carries the potential for an explosion. They may even deny having sinned against us. But true forgiveness pursues relationship and restoration. True forgiveness is not satisfied with simply canceling the debt. It longs to love again.

For full explanation of above main points see:

<http://www.acts29.com/forgiveness-what-it-is-what-it-is-not/>