

LIFE Group Sermon Questions

Kingdom Relationships

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THE ORCHARD

Matthew 18:15-35

If Your Brother Sins Against You

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[a] in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.^[b] ²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.^[c]²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.^[d] ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant^[e] fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii,^[f] and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Sermon Outline

1. How to seek reconciliation

Five questions you can ask when someone in the church wrongs you

- Is this sin?
- What is my goal?
- What should I say?
- Who should I involve?
- And when have I done all that I can?

2. How to forgive

- Remember God’s grace
- Ask for God’s heart

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it is often easy to desire retribution or to notice how others have wronged us, yet much harder to recognize our own wrongdoing toward them?
 - a. How might reflecting on what Christ has done for you reshape that perspective?
 - b. In what ways does, or should, the gospel transform your relationships with those who have wronged you?
2. If appropriate and you feel comfortable sharing, can you recall a time when you experienced reconciliation with a brother or sister in Christ?
 - a. What was that experience like? Did it strengthen the relationship?
 - b. What lessons or reflections from that experience might encourage others in the group?
3. The master had the right to sell the servant and his family but chose to take the debt upon himself. Where do you see the "Gospel" most clearly in this specific part of the story?
4. How is "forgiving from the heart" different from just saying "it's okay" to keep the peace?
5. Jesus says we must have "unlimited patience and mercy." What is one practical step you can take this week to actively foster a heart of mercy toward someone who has wronged you?
6. Any other passages or takeaways from this passage or message?