

Luke 11 Prayer Diagram IX Forgiving others' sins 2 notes

Matthew 18:21-35

1. Forgiveness is only request in the Lord's prayer with a caveat.

--Matthew 6:12; 14-15; He emphasizes this point constantly throughout His ministry

Mark 11:25

--We saw last time: Who do we forgive? Everyone! Luke 11:4

--Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you: Colossians 3:13

--Does the Lord bring up stuff about your past?

--Did God wait until you asked for Jesus and recognized your sin before He sent Him?

--Does the Lord fume over what you've done?

--Does the Lord hold a grudge against you?

--Does the Lord delight when you suffer the consequences of your sins?

--Does the Lord speak to anybody else about what you've done to Him?

--Did the Lord pay for your sins Himself and not ask anything from you in return?

Forgiveness is paying for some else's sins.

--Forgiving the unforgivable is hard, nobody knows that better than the One who is commanding us to forgive

2. He knows how difficult forgiveness can be. He also knows how hard it is if we don't forgive.

How serious is God about forgiveness and us resolving our anger?

--Here's what He says to us about it: Matthew 18:21-35

--Wow! The New You in the New Year doesn't need any of that!

3. Now that we've heard God's word on the subject, let's start chipping away at solution to getting to where God wants us to be.

--Definition of Forgiveness--What is forgiveness? What does it look like?

--Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin.

--No longer requiring a person to pay for what they did--debtor goes free

--As you think about setting your debtors free, ask yourself "Who's the prisoner?"

4. Do you have unresolved anger in your life? Let's take a test to see if you do.

This test is from Gary Smalley's book "Making Love Last Forever"

1. Resentment test: Someone you resent and never let off the hook?

2. Responsibility test: "if only they had done this or that, I wouldn't be like I am – in this mess."

--Are you taking responsibility for your situation? OR blaming someone else for it?

--Not taking responsibility is like blaming that person, or persons for where your boat sails.

3. Reminder or Reaction test – Do you react against some people not because they, necessarily have done anything to you, but they remind you of someone who did?

--They look, talk, or behave like a person who, apparently, you may not have fully forgiven and that's why you react the way you do.

--We have to deal decisively with our anger or it will deal decisively with us.

--Would you begin to ask God to reveal to you hidden anger and unforgiveness in your life right now and ask Him to help you to deal with it?

--Unforgiveness isn't so much an issue between you and your offender as much as it is an issue between you and your God!!

Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12; Psalm 103:11-12; Micah 7:19

God has given us the ultimate example of forgiveness by allowing His one and only Son to die and pay for our offenses against Him.

We forgive because He's forgiven us; no other reason—the other person doesn't need to do anything, doesn't have to be there, doesn't have to be alive because my forgiveness of this person is between me and God not between me and them.