



SMALL GROUPS | CURRICULUM

SERMON TITLE	DATE
Title: Breakthrough Your Unforgiveness	April 22.2016

Tools: pen, pencils, your notes from the sermon

Matthew 18:25 – 35 Context: Matthews Gospel contains five teaching sessions of Jesus. This is more than any other gospel. Chapter 18 is the fourth of these. It teaches disciples how to live out the gospel as a community, characterized by humility, purity, accountability, discipline, reconciliation, restoration and forgiveness.

Read: Matthew 18 focusing especially on verses 21 – 35.

1. Discuss the meaning of forgiving sin in a disciple?
2. How do personal preferences and petty differences of opinion cause unforgiveness in the church?
3. Should it? Why not?

Three ways forgiving people forgive:

1. Forgive Generously v.21-22

- a. How did Pastor Kevin define "To forgive?"
- b. In the discussion with Peter what was his understanding of forgiveness?
- c. How did Jesus correct him?
- d. What does refusal to forgive other disciples lead to?
- e. Why can we forgive generously? How do we do it?

2. Forgive Compassionately v.23-27

- a. Discuss the parable of the unforgiving and unmerciful servant in verse 23 – 34?
- b. Who is this servant and who is the King according to v. 35?
- c. How does the Father forgive us of our sin?
- d. Why is it impossible to payback the debt the Father forgives us?

Read: Psalm 103:12, and Hebrews 8:12

- a. Describe the extent of the Father's forgiveness of our sins?
- b. Explain how the Father exchanges our sin for Jesus righteousness when we put our faith in Jesus?

3. Forgive Wholeheartedly: verse 28 – 35

a. Discuss in detail why someone would refuse to forgive?

(i.e., too hurtful, too hard, not ready)

b. Explanation: When a brother/sister sins against you, Pastor Kevin described forgiveness as both vertical and horizontal. Vertical forgiveness means you forgive your brother/sister releasing them from the penalty they owe you, knowing they owe God. This is crucial because your brother or sister may not ask for forgiveness. Horizontal forgiveness means you forgive your brother/sister releasing them from a potential severed relationship between the two of you.

c. Discuss God's role of empowering you to be able to forgiving another brother/sister?

d. Read Ephesians 4:32 and discuss what you should do if you are the one who has sinned against your brother or sister. Why are you responsible to ask for forgiveness?

Read: James 2:13

a. How can unforgiveness impact your testimony?

b. How does your willingness to forgive mark a disciple living in the kingdom here on earth?

c. Are you living in the kingdom? Why?

MEMORY VERSE:

Mathew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Men/Women Accountability:

1. What does humility have to do with forgiveness and your relationship to God?

2. If there is anyone in your life you need to forgive, what is holding you back?

3. Why may you be struggling to forgive another?

4. Read: Matthew 5:23 – 24 If reconciliation with a brother is to be one of the highest forms of worship, how are you going to worship God in this way this week?

