

Who Me? Forgive?
Matthew 18:21-35
11/9/08

Big Idea: Jesus said: We are to forgive others because we have been forgiven by God.

I. We have been forgiven by God

Verse 22 - "just as I had mercy on you"

1. A debt is owed (See Romans 3:23)
2. The inability to pay the debt
3. A penalty is declared
(See Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27)
4. The debtor appeals for mercy
5. Mercy is granted
(See Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8,9, John 1:12)

Challenge: Have you personally experienced God's grace?

Further: For those who have, preach the Gospel to yourself everyday.

II. Because we have been forgiven by God, we must forgive.

Verse 35 - "...unless you forgive your brother from your heart..."

1. Question: As a multiple offender myself who was forgiven such a large debt, do I dare withhold forgiveness?
2. Jesus said: Verse 35 - "Forgive your brother (or sister) from your heart, if you want your Father to forgive you."

Luke 6:28 "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Matthew 7:12 "Do unto others what you would have them do to you."

Matthew 5:44 "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

James 2:13 "Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful"

Forgiveness is not necessarily:

- Forgetting
- Condoning
- Reconciliation
- Dismissing
- Pardoning

But forgiveness is:

- Surrendering the right to get even
- Seeing the other person as weak, needy, fallible, human just like me
- The gradual desire for the welfare of the person who injured us

Prayer: "Lord, I choose to forgive _____
for _____, even though it made
me feel _____. Lord, I choose not to hold any
of these things against _____ any longer. I thank
you for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness
toward _____. I now ask you to bless
_____. In Jesus name I pray. Amen."

From Neil Anderson