

The Journey Of Forgiveness

Luke 15:15-24

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11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

Luke 15:15-24 - Continued

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Luke 15:15-24 - Continued

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Introduction

A. Attitudes that need forgiveness

1. Selfishness (v 12)
2. Impatience (v 13)
2. Foolishness (v 14)

B. Actions that need forgiveness (vv 14-16)

1. Defiling the family name
2. Destroying the family's resources

C. Affirmation of the need for forgiveness (vv 17-22)

1. Come to your senses (v 17)
2. Come to the one who can give forgiveness (vv 18-19)
3. Commit to the one who can give forgiveness
(vv 21-22)

I. Recognizing the Need for Forgiveness

A. Recognize our own need for forgiveness

1. We need understanding

Psalm 14:2-3

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

2. We need agreement (v 17)

I. Recognizing the Need for Forgiveness

B. Recognize the impact of not forgiving

1. Our instruction

Matthew 6:12-13

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

2. Our ignorance

Matthew 6:14-15

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

I. Recognizing the Need for Forgiveness

C. Recognize God's call to forgive

1. Repentance required

Luke 17:3

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

2. Relationship reflected

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

II. Releasing The Burden Of Unforgiveness

A. Release bitterness and anger

1. No good for you

Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

2. No good for God

James 1:20

For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

II. Releasing The Burden Of Unforgiveness

B. Release the desire for revenge

Romans 12:19

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

C. Release control of the past

Isaiah 43:18-19

18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

III. Rebuilding Relationships Through Forgiveness

A. Rebuild trust

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

B. Rekindle love and compassion

Colossians 3:12

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

III. Rebuilding Relationships Through Forgiveness

C. Rejoice in reconciliation (vv 22-24)

Luke 15:32

It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

**We All Need Forgiveness
And
We All Need To Give Forgiveness**