

“DYSFUNCTION, FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION - PT. 2”

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INTRO: Last week we focused on the life of Jacob and the dysfunction in his family. Fortunately, Esau forgave Jacob and they reconciled. Dysfunction leads to many forgiveness opportunities! God will arrange circumstances to give us opportunities to deal with our stuff! Can you relate?

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:21-35).

1. We're commanded to forgive unconditionally.
2. A man who had been forgiven an unpayable debt refused to forgive another man who owed him a payable debt.
3. The unforgiving man faced severe consequences.

PRINCIPLES OF FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION.

1. We're commanded to forgive unconditionally.
 - A. Col. 3:12-13 – What to put on.
 - B. Eph. 4:31-32 – What to put off.
2. Forgiveness is a choice, not an emotion.
 - A. Emotions typically lag behind choices.
3. Understand what Forgiveness is and isn't.
 - A. Forgiveness is NOT: Denying, Minimizing, or Excusing the other person's actions.
 - B. Greek – to send it away and let it go.
 - C. Dictionary – To let go of past grudges or lingering anger against a person or persons [gives up revenge].
4. Does Forgiving require Forgetting? You don't forget about the incident, but you let it go [pain decreases over time].
5. Does Forgiveness also include Reconciliation? If there's the capacity to restore trust. Trust should be earned.
6. How can I Forgive? Choose & declare forgiveness, trusting Christ to empower you to forgive. Walk out the process. Nurture your spiritual & emotional growth and wellbeing. Remember the consequences of not forgiving – you won't be forgiven (Matt. 6:12, 14-15; 18:34-35; Mark 11:25-26)!
7. Do I need to talk to the person I'm forgiving? If they know you have unforgiveness or need to ask for forgiveness.

CONCLUSION: Is there anyone you need to forgive? Are you willing to forgive?