



BECOMING A PEACEMAKER

so the world will know

July 2, 2023
FORGIVING OTHERS 70 X 7
Matthew 18:21-35

Outline:

1. Big idea: We forgive because God forgives us – the vertical and the horizontal
2. Acknowledge the hurt, the wrong, the sin that was done.
 - We don't sweep it under the rug and ignore it
3. Choose to forgive.
 - Forgiveness is not a 'feeling'
 - We don't wait until we feel forgiveness.
 - We don't wait until they come to us
 - It's about our own heart – not dependent on them at all
4. Sin = a departure from either human or divine standards of uprightness
5. Forgive
 - Aphiémi – used in Matthew, Mark, and Luke – to let go, send away – to release from legal or moral obligation – in other words, to cancel or pardon. Or to let go.
 - and the one Paul liked to use – charizomai which in English means to cancel a sum of money that is owed, to show oneself gracious by forgiving wrongdoing, to forgive or pardon.
6. Vertical & Horizontal forgiveness
 - Because of the vertical (God's forgiveness for us) , we can forgive the horizontal (our fellow human beings)
7. How do I know if I've forgiven them?
 - I don't dwell on the situation
 - I don't bring it up and use it as a weapon against them
 - I don't keep on talking about it
8. The opposite of the above – may show you need to revisit forgiving that person.

Reflection Questions:

1. *We forgive because God forgives us – the horizontal and the vertical. What are your thoughts on this? Are there parts you're wrestling with? Explain*

2. *Is there anyone that God has brought to mind during this week that you need to forgive?*

3. *Is there someone whose name came up that you have broken one of the 3 promises about forgiveness with?*

4. *What do you think about sin and how we can sin in thought, word, and actions (deeds)?*

5. *Forgiveness as a choice and not as a feeling can be difficult. How are you doing with it?*

6. *Anything else?*