

5. let it Go.

Bloodlines – Series

Ps. Unia Kiima – 8th October 2017

Sermon Notes

Qn: What are some of those small things that the people you leave with do, that tick you off?

Categories of Offence:

Minor offences.

We've all had irritating things done to us by people who should know better. Some are minor issues; annoyances, slights and disappointments. The everyday offenses might be;

- The **spouse** who can never seem to be on time
- the **housemate** who always delays her portion of the rent
- the **children** who never call to ask how you're doing
- the **now well to do schoolmate** who you wave at enthusiastically and they give you a look like 'do I know you from somewhere?'

Now some people are extremely sensitive and can lose a whole week of sleep because of such **everyday offenses and irritations.**

These though are part of life and we need to be careful that we do not make huge issues out of them. Do not make mountains out of mole hills.

We need to bear with one another Gal 6:2 and be tolerant one to another. Col 3:13

Major offences.

But then there are those hurts that can be quantified as deep or major hurts. Things like disloyalty, betrayal and brutality.

Disloyalty is when someone I trust doesn't reciprocate that trust.

- The person that you gave a job when they were in need takes off for a better paying job without giving notice.
- Or those friends you're always going out of your way for but who don't show up for you when you fall sick. That's disloyalty.

Betrayal goes even further. It's when someone I trust goes behind my back to harm me.

- That business partner 'borrows' money from the business account and disappears,
- or that best friend who gossiped about a deep secret you shared with them.
- or that parent who abandoned you,
- or that spouse who cheated on you, and destroyed your marriage and your life

Betrayal is personal treason and it destroys relationships. How many here have experienced betrayal?

And then there's **brutality.**

Brutality happens when someone physically or emotionally assaults me and causes me harm.

- Some of you or members of your family have experienced rape, which is one of the worst forms of brutality.
- A person who batters their spouse commits brutality. Whether it's verbal or physical or emotional abuse,

Brutality is violence against our person and it can leave us scarred for life.

Now it's one thing to tell someone to get over an everyday hurt, but deep hurts are another matter.

Many of us find that the pains of the past keep us tied up in bitterness towards those who hurt us. We may not think about them often, and we may even have moved on and succeeded in life despite the hurt.

But whenever we meet that person or think about what they did to us, we know that we are still bitter against them. How do we even begin to deal with such emotion? How do we forgive our debtors?

Gen 45:1-15NLT.

Introduces us to a man who was dealing with deep hurt.

Joseph.

Joseph had undergone the agony of slavery and the indignity of prison. All those wasted years! And the worst thing was all this time, their own lives had continued on as if nothing had happened! In a position of absolute power over those who had betrayed him and destroyed his life...

What would you have done if you were Joseph?

1. **Retribution** - How many of you would have thrown them into prison for life! Make them suffer! Didn't expect too many for this one – this is Mavuno Church after all and you're all good Christians! So let me give you a better option...
2. **Discipline** – Joseph threw them into prison for three days – I like this one! But maybe a little longer would have been more appropriate – 13 days, one for each year, and only after I'd told them who I was and they could stew in terror for a while wondering what next!
Just change the way you respond to them to teach them a lesson.

Of course it wouldn't be revenge... we're Christians after all! It would just be an opportunity for them to reflect on their actions and share a small taste what I had gone through. Anybody here think like me?

3. **Distance** – How many would have said 'I forgive you, now get out of here! But before you go, look... all this could have been ours!' You be there and I be here.

These are the ways in which most of us respond to offense.

What is the God way?

God says you could remain with those methods as your solution or you could try mine which is

Forgive: Let it go.

Why:

1. **Because we too need forgiveness: Mat 6: 14-15.**

Unless you forgive God will not forgive you.

In **Mat.6:14-15** puts it bluntly, *'If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins'*. The terrible fact of the matter is that He has made the forgiveness of our own sins conditional on our forgiveness of others!

Imagine if God pulled those moves we pull on us would we survive?

This is to remind us that given the right circumstances, we too are capable of the evil we see in others. This helps us recognize our own need for forgiveness.

The reason I forgive is because I too need forgiveness.

I may not offend now but soon enough I am going to do something that will need that level of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is tough especially when it involves those people whom we are closest to such as parents, spouses, and close friends.

It's also tough to forgive or receive forgiveness from those people whom, for whatever reason, we have come to expect more from such as employers, mentors, and pastors.

It's tough to extend forgiveness to those who do not deserve it.

2. **We leave Room for God to Act. Rom 12:19.**

Remember that time when you were a kid and you reported but you took matters into your own hands, well you interfered with Justice. If you had not reciprocated, you would have received a harsher sentence for the offender.

God is a God of justice. Step aside and Let God fight for you. You give you pain to God and allow him to both heal you and vindicate you.

3. Forgiveness closes the door Bitterness. 2 Cor. 2:10-11.

Every opportunity of offence is an opportunity for bitterness to grow in your heart. When you forgive you shut that door.

It's not the lord who brings offence is the enemy and he does it as a means to get you into bitterness.

, 'Bitterness is drinking poison and hoping the other person dies!'

Look at all the people who are nasty, upset, always bickering. most of these people are bitter. Life has been unfair and they have refused to let go not they are exactly what they despised.

You become the villain.

How do you close the door to bitterness?

1. Acknowledge the Pain.

You were hurt, and you need to come to terms with it. Sometimes we want to pretend nothing happened. As Christians we want to act like nothing bothers us. But if you are hurt, you must admit it.

2. Reframe the Pain.

Sometimes what we can see is just the pain but like Joseph we need to see that despite the fact that it was intended for bad, God had worked it out for good. Rom 8:28. In vs 8. Joseph sees Gods hand in it all. Ask for Gods perceptive so you can reframe the pain

3. Let Go.

The reality is that you may never truly understand exactly why it had to happen. But you need to make the choice to let go and to release the person. You can forgive before they ask for forgiveness because its done for you not for them. This means you will not bring it up in conversations or keep hammering them with it.

4. Seek reconciliation:

This is the last part of sincere forgiveness. Sometimes it's not possible due to factors like distance or death. But when we can we like Joseph need to offer an olive branch to those who have harmed us. I believe there are many families that will be reconciled and many marriages saved if we truly practiced forgiveness.

Friends, we have all been hurt there are a number of people who have been hurt and abused in ways the rest of us could never fully understand.

But we can decide to handle it the way we have handled it in the past or give God a chance and Let it GO.

PRAY FOR: Somebody who needs to let go... Somebody who needs to ask for forgiveness...

FREEDOM PRAYER:

Dear heavenly Father, I thank You for the riches of Your kindness, forbearance, and patience, knowing that Your kindness has led me to repentance (Rom.2:4). I confess that I have not extended that same patience and kindness toward others who have offended me, but instead I have harbored bitterness and resentment. I pray that during this time of self-examination You would bring to mind all those people that I have not forgiven in order that I may do so (Matt.18:35). I also pray that if I have offended others You would bring to mind all those people from whom I need to seek forgiveness and the extent to which I need to seek it (Matt.5:23-4). I ask this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.