The Beauty of Forgiveness

The Cry for Forgiveness

Opportunities to give and receive forgiveness come up every day in our lives. The instances may be relatively trivial. Someone cuts us off in traffic, a family member or friend may utter a thoughtless remark that hurts a loved one's feelings. On the other hand, there are also serious harms that can be inflicted by individuals and groups, such as abuse and discrimination.

The person who has been offended must choose how to deal with it. Forgiveness is not minimizing sin nor is it removing justice or consequences. Biblical forgiveness does not ignore truth but walks through it with God. It releases bitterness while still pursuing justice, healing, and restoration where possible. The forgiveness that God gives us serves as the basis of our ability to extend forgiveness to other people and even to ourselves. Over the course of seven sessions, we will consider from various angles: The Cry, The Source, The Picture, The Reason, The Path, The Declaration, The Evidence. A common thread weaving through stories across various times and places is the fact that God has always intended for forgiveness to be part of lives of His people. We will look at the biblical narratives of people seeking, needing, experiencing, and celebrating forgiveness.

READ PSALM 51:1-4

Our Sin is Against God

How would you compare the mercy David is seeking with the mercy needed in the movie for the man who was accused of killing his wife?

How does being aware of God's abundant compassion affect your view of your sin?

READ PSALM 51:5-9

We Must Turn to God in Repentance

What words or phrases in these verses suggest that David had a repentant heart?

The Beauty of Forgiveness

What difference does it make if we don't repent when we sin?

Why should confession lead to repentance?

When does confession not lead to repentance?

The Beauty of Forgiveness

What is the significance of wisdom at a time when confession and repentance is necessary?

READ PSALM 51:10-13

God Restores the Joy of our Salvation

Why is it necessary for believers to have a clean heart?