

## OFFERING GRACE

Matthew 10:8

February 17, 2008 Sunday a.m.

### INTRODUCTION

- A. We have been exploring what the Bible says about Grace.
  - 1. Its defined as.....
    - a. God's love in action.
    - b. God giving us what we need, not what we deserve.
  - 2. We've seen how its applied in our lives...
    - a. Saving Grace-salvation.
    - b. Forgiving Grace-overcomes our guilt.
    - c. Sustaining Grace-from trials and temptations.
    - d. Healing Grace-from hidden wounds.
    - e. Liberating Grace-from perfectionism.
- B. Today, we continue by looking at "Offering Grace".
  - 1. The Bible says God didn't intend for us to just receive Grace. He also wants us to pass it on to others—Matthew 10:8.
  - 2. One of the most needed ways to pass on God's Grace is through forgiveness.

### I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT.

- A. First, forgiveness isn't conditional.
  - 1. Saying "I'll forgive you if...." isn't really forgiveness.
  - 2. Real forgiveness is unconditional.
  - 3. It's given whether someone asks for it or not.
    - a. Its given even before anyone asks for it. Jesus forgave those who crucified him (Father, forgive them....).
    - b. Its given even to people who don't deserve it (i.e. those who killed Jesus).
- B. Second, forgiveness isn't minimizing the offense.
  - 1. Its not saying, "Well, it really doesn't matter anyway". We can't just swallow it and pretend it doesn't hurt.
  - 2. This doesn't mean we rub someone nose in it. Sometimes we shouldn't even bring it to their attention because it may escalate into a confrontation.
- C. Third, forgiveness isn't reconciliation.
  - 1. If a change in behavior doesn't take place, there can be no reconciliation.
  - 2. If trust has been broken, it must be earned back.
- D. Fourth, forgiveness isn't forgetting what happened.
  - 1. Only God can forgive and forget.
  - 2. We can't forget what has been done, but we can remember that we forgave whenever those memories keep coming back.
    - a. This requires effort.
    - b. This also requires repetition.

### II. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS.

- A. First, forgiveness is remembering how much we have been forgiven.
  - 1. By God-Ephesians 4:32.
  - 2. By Others.
- B. Second, forgiveness is relinquishing the right to get even-Romans 12:19.
- C. Third, forgiveness is responding to evil with good-I Corinthians 13:5 & Luke 6:27-28.
- D. Fourth, forgiveness requires repetition-Hebrews 12:15 & Matthew 6:15.