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Calvary Baptist Church W.A.R. Bible Study

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Maturation – Christian Biblical Worldview Lesson 7

Pardoning The Trespasser - LESSON FIVE

Matthew 6:14-15

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

As Christians, a part of our responsibility which speaks of maturation is forgiving people. In the Lord’s prayer we pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Often we pray that prayer without giving any thought to what we are really saying. We are really asking God to forgive us based on how we forgive those who have sinned against us. Wheww!!!!

That changes the game doesn’t it? Because we all want to be forgiven by God. Yet, we find it so difficult to forgive others. Brothers and Sisters, forgiving others is a sign of spiritual maturity. It is a sign that you are growing by the grace of God.

As Christians, the world has us under a microscope to see how we respond to life. We have Jesus Christ as our model of forgiveness.

Remember, when the church ceases to forgive,
the church ceases to be the church.

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The Big Idea: As members of Calvary Baptist Church we have the responsibility to forgive one another.

Commentary

*"Forgive us our trespasses" is the fifth of the seven petitions in the Lord's prayer (the first three address God, the second four are prayers related to our needs and concerns). The Greek word for "forgive" in the New Testament is the word "aphes", which also means to dismiss or free. So God's forgiveness is not just about being pardoned from doing something wrong, but also about being released and freed from it. It is a truly life changing experience. Notice that Jesus connects the notions of us seeking God's forgiveness and forgiving others. They are inextricably linked. If we have experienced God's pardon and acquittal, then we will surely forgive those who have wronged us. Christ underlines the importance of this immediately after the prayer. "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (recorded in Matthew 6:14-15) He also develops this further in the parable of the unmerciful servant, where we are taught to keep on forgiving those who have wronged us (Matthew 18:21-35)."*¹

¹ Read more at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/commentary/forgive_us_our_trespases.html

THOUGHT #1: Forgiveness is required for those who have been forgiven. There is no greater tenet to the Christian faith than forgiveness. F.O.O.M.M. Maturity embraces a responsibility to others that includes forgiving them—just as Christ has forgiven us.

THOUGHT #2: As Christians, do we have the luxury of remaining bitter at someone who has wronged us? Is your answer based on personal views or how Jesus Christ would answer? Is your answer based on the F.O.O.M.M. worldview?

Questions

1. What is meant by trespasses?
2. What do we have to do be forgiven by God?
3. What does **Matthew 5:23-24** instruct is to do?
4. How does **Matthew 18:15-17** teach us to deal with trespasses in the church?
5. What does **Matthew 18:21-34** teach us?

Make It Plain

1. Why is it so hard to let go of hurt?
2. Is “Forgive and Forget” an accurate statement?
3. What benefits come from forgiving others?