

August 5th - 11th

Parables pt1: Forgiveness

In this lesson you will learn about unforgiveness, forgiveness, and how to live a lifestyle of forgiveness.

Intro: How do you deal with the offenses in your life? Are you a talker, a stuffer, or a shouter? Forgiveness is a God idea talked about thousands of times throughout the Old & New Testaments. It is time to be done with bitterness. Be done with the grudge you have been carrying for years. You can't embrace your destiny if you're still holding onto your history. When we choose to forgive, freedom flows and healing begins. God will promote you to the level of your offendability. Don't allow the small things to hold you back from the great things God has in store for you.

I. Unforgiveness

- A. Offenses that you hold onto will hold you back from the destiny that God wants to unlock in your life. Unforgiveness keeps you in a prison of hurt and offense, while the other person walks free. Keeping unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die from it. The offense robs you of your peace, joy, love, and grace you desperately need. Finally, it closes the doors that you pray will open (Matt 6:12).

II. Forgiveness

- A. Forgiveness is a gift more to you than it is to the person who offended you. It unlocks the prison of offense that has held you hostage. Forgiveness initiates the healing process of your heart and the relationship. It builds up your mercy account and stores up mercy for you when you need forgiveness yourself. Lastly, forgiveness allows God to command the Blessing of the Lord on your life (Psalm 133:1-3).

III. How to Forgive

- A. Always keep in mind that God chose to forgive you first before you ever apologized or acknowledged your wrongdoing. While Jesus was wrongfully beaten, whipped, and hung on the cross, he forgave all of those who wronged him. When you pray the Lord's prayer, pause and meditate on the part about forgiving others. Release the need to God of having to see people suffer for their wrongs. Choose to live a lifestyle of forgiveness. Before anyone wrongs or offends you, decide to be a forgiver ahead of time.

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any family members in your household that you need to forgive today?
2. Do you need to release any grudges you have held onto for years?
3. To whom do you need to show mercy in your life?