

Sermon Notes

One Thing We Do Better than God

Matthew 18:21-35 November 7, 2021

Quantifying Forgiveness

Matthew 18:22 *I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

Forgiveness Scorecard: If you're counting the number of times you have to forgive, then you haven't forgiven.

When you've been wronged, you have every right to hold it over the other person.

Undeserved Forgiveness

Psalm 32:5 *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

God doesn't remember our confessed sins, but we sure do. One thing we do better than God is remembering our sins.

When we hold on to the guilt of our sins, it hurts God because we've rejected His loving forgiveness.

Isaiah 43:25 *God says, "I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins."*

The Worst Thing about Unforgiveness

Rejecting God mercy and lugging around our guilt is not the worst thing we do. The worst thing is that we do not become merciful.

Matthew 18:32-33 ... *"You wicked servant," he said, ... "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"*

Our bitter heart locks us in with bars of resentment, spite and anger.

Forgiving: We don't deny it happened, justify it or say it doesn't matter, and we don't overlook consequences - but we decide to release its continuing claim on our life.

Never minimize serious trauma; it may take a lot of counseling and a lot of prayer; it can be a lifelong journey, but we can invite Jesus to be with us on our journey.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is giving up all hope for a perfect yesterday.

Forgiveness is no longer defining who I am today by some injustice done to me in the past.

Forgiveness is letting go of the anger and bitterness of a past event that continues to lay emotional claim to my present life.

"When you forgive, you set a prisoner free and then you discover that prisoner was you." - Lewis Smedes

A Sermon Message that Changed Roger's Life

Dr. Peggy Bassett: "How long are you willing to allow your gaping wound to define you?"

The scandal of the gospel is that God forgave the unforgivable so that we can do likewise.