



Small Group Notes

Text:

Matthew 18:21-35

Title:

Transformation through forgiveness

Further scriptures:

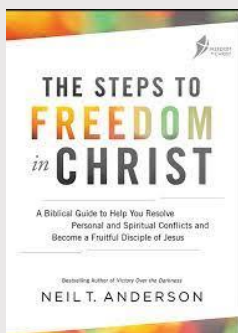
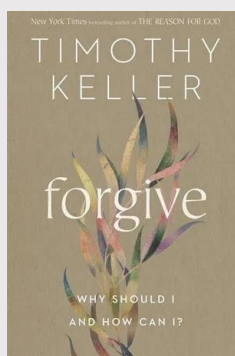
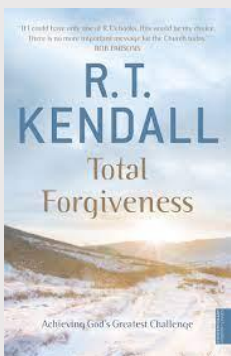
Matt. 5:21-26

Matt. 6:14

Eph. 4:31-32

Col. 3:12-13

Heb. 12:15



This week we looked at how unforgiveness can leave us hurt, bitter and enslaved. Jesus calls his disciples to follow his example of grace and mercy in forgiving those who have sinned against us, and in doing so freeing both them and us.

Reflect

1. What most impacted you from the passage or from the preach?
2. In the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matt 18 21-35) what are your feelings about the different characters in the story? (e.g., do we feel compassion or pity, anger, fear, joy, ...) Why?
3. Which character do you feel most distant or different from? Why? How does this influence the way we understand the story?
4. How could extending forgiveness heal a relationship? How might it heal the other person? How might it heal you?
5. Do you believe good can come from any bad event, or are some too awful? How does your view square with Romans 8:28?

Respond

1. Why do you think it is difficult to forgive those who hurt you?
2. Can you relate a recent incident in which you showed mercy? How did it feel to withhold justice?
3. How what ways does unforgiveness affect the spiritual life of the Church?
4. Name specific ways you want to grow in this area of forgiveness.

Practice

1. Take some time, either on your own, or with in your discipleship group or with a trusted friend, to ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there is any unforgiveness and go through the 'step to forgiveness' on the Practice Sheet.

Further reading

Total forgiveness, *R. T. Kendall*

Forgive, *Timothy Keller*

The steps to freedom in Christ, *Neil T. Anderson*