

love is... *do you realize love is the greatest commandment in scripture?*

MT 22: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" MT 22:37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

you cannot have successful loving relationships with God, other human beings including yourself without incorporating the core value of forgiveness

I am continually struck by the need of so many to seek forgiveness for offenses they have committed and secondly the desire for reconciliation between loved ones...whether it be spouses, children, family, friends or acquaintances... including people here at church this

One of the most important issues that we all face in life is the question of forgiveness. One it is the foundation of our relationship with God... through Jesus...

1 John 4: 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

The word showed means manifested...became visible, tangible

- **God is Love and Love communicates**...it is not just verbal communication, it is active...Love is sacrificial and unselfish
- God's holy and righteous...ie light...(no hidden sin or motive) required Him to act... not only pronounce love act in accord with it
- **His act was to send his son...so that we might live through Him**
- **So godly love compels action on behalf the one loved.**

Our desperate need was for eternal life...so God motivated by love... addressing our need ...sent his Son

- **This is love...God loves us...and he has a plan..**
- **God the Father says...None of you were born with a deep love of me....in fact rejection of me is just one of the things you have done wrong...**
- **But That is ok I love you...and my love came to you...in human form...Jesus and he took away all that is wrong with you....because I love you...**
- **so you ought to love others...the same way...forgive them...**
- **two things expressed in this valentine**

➤ **Love and forgiveness go together ...they are inseparable...**

1John 4:10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

- **This is real love:** not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an sacrifice to take away our sins.

EPH 1: 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

- **This is Love...it does not wane....it is kind...and grace filled**
- **purchased...the act by which God makes us at one with him again despite our sin...or breaking of the relationship**
- **By Blood of his son...it cost him...all forgiveness costs the forgiver...**
- **Now our Responsibility**

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

- The Holy Spirit seal...use Tape to Seal...the relationship
- it was **God's the Fathers plan** to include you personally into his family...
- it was **God the son who provided the means...blood bought forgiveness**
- **it is Got the Holy spirit who protects the deal and delivers us** unto the Father and Son and into the Family...we can rest in that

God loves you.... he will never break the command to love you....so that means he will always forgive us....there is no better Valentine than that.... So as children of God... and imitators of our heavenly father we offer the same to ourselves and others..

1 John 4: 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. ¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in

them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

- It is the outward demonstration of proof that God dwells in a person.
- It is sacrificial and unselfish hand forgiveness heals that which is damaged.
- **We love like this not because we must but because we are compelled because His Spirit lives in us...and love always must incorporate forgiveness of one cannot truly love**

It is important because, whatever our reputation in moral matters, we will never be free of the need of receiving forgiveness from God and from one another, and also of giving it to one another.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus showed his recognition of this by including our request for God's forgiveness, and our offer of it to others, as part of our regular praying.

MT 6: ¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

- **In other words God forgive me , the same way I forgive others and myself...**
- **If I forgive them but bring it back up every time I am upset...Please God do the same to me...if I beat myself up every time I mess up...please God beat me up when I mess up...if I have to be paid back for every wrong done to me before I forgive...please God do the same to me, make me pay you back before you forgive me....**
So God don't let me yield to this temptation...

¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

- **So forgiveness is really a blessing to me...**

¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- **Since I and everyone else living on this earth will sin against each-other and God there is always the ongoing need to receive forgiveness and give forgiveness**

Why is Forgiveness important? Without forgiveness, we will never be able to form deep relationships For we will always be protecting ourselves from being hurt again....every relationship will pay a price for all the hurt of previous relationships...

You know your forgiveness always starts where you live...it is not limited to that but that is where it starts...

- It is often the hardest place to walk out love...why? It is where our deepest wounding occurs and where we wound deepest...
- The more you know someone...the greater their faults stand out, and their strengths diminish... dating you put your best foot forward...but it takes two to walk...
- The less you know someone the greater their strengths stand out and their faults are yet to be displayed...
- It is often the place of greatest rejection...it ought to be the place of greatest encouragement... why?
- Parental favoritism daddy's or mommy's favorite...strengths that are admired, strengths that are discounted...sports, art,
- Parental comparisons...why don't you be more like...brother... sister...
- Parental neglect...fend for yourself...felt rejection early in life
- Sibling rivalry
- Pecking...oldest to youngest...put in a mold... smart one, slow one, 40 years old and still the baby of the family
- Family traditions...all kids will work in the family business...
- Have had a traumatic experience of rejection, for example, in a divorce or separation that deeply scarred them.
- Have lacked appropriate role models in life who accepted them for who they really were.
- Have suffered from social isolation in their early lives.

- Lack certain personal accomplishments, which they feel set them apart and which contribute to their lack of self-confidence.
- Have a physical condition that they believe makes them unattractive to others.
- Have been told all their life that they were "second best" or different.
- Lack certain personal accomplishments, which they feel set them apart
- Have never been exposed to healthy ways of dealing with conflict or disagreement.
- And if were married...the way we used to live...change that is necessary...can be fought against by spouse, or children
- Or single or divorced...changes required as we follow the Lord...can be frowned upon by others...
- But It is the starting point...does not mean one is limited to the family but our lives conversion must be witnessed by those closet to us...their reception is on them...our actions are on us...

We must understand this.... The heart of God toward people is love...to love them he must have compassion on them...to show compassion his heart must be one of Forgiveness toward them...

**First, there is the forgiveness of God, which assures us of our worth and strengthens us to take this practice to heart in our doings.
then, there is acceptance of forgiveness which enables us to release our guilt and self-perfectionism.**

- **In order to forgive others I must first come to grips with my own need for forgiveness... and it is a continuing need!**

1) Your capacity to love is in direct correlation to the capacity to forgive...

Luke 7: 47 "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

- A spiritual principle... little forgiveness...little love...great forgiveness...great love
- She knew what it meant to be a mess...so she could identify with the messy.

- She also knew what it meant of be forgiven.... Not being condemned any longer and the freedom it brought to her life...
- So to forgive others would bring freedom to tem...
- **Freedom to what?? Freedom to love and be around anyone...to longer less than but equal..**

It is interesting that the deeper our wounds the greater capacity to empathize with the pain of others followed by a deeper well of love toward God and others.....an understanding of the real human condition...

2) Understand the gravity of my own sin against God and others... keeps you humble

All wrong doing is first of all against God... although my sin will always effect others...it is first against God...

PS 51: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

- When I do wrong...it is first a violation of love towards God... then others
- You see God said to love our neighbors....when I violate that...I am first violating what he commanded
- Then I am violating you...
- So I need forgiveness first from God...then others
- **Do not minimize or discount how much your offense's hurt others... while magnifying theirs .**
- For example using phrases like...your making way to big a deal out of this...
- It was not that bad...it didn't hurt that much...you are way to emotional...
- Or name calling...you are just like your mother, father brother sister...

All these statements have the effect of trivializing the pain of others, and minimizing the persons need of forgiveness or change...

What they are doing is justifying their behavior...rather than hearing what there behavior is causing in the person they have hurt.

Once I get right with God and others... then I am able to more clearly see others wrongs in a clear light...they are human too.. ...and like me they do not merit forgiveness but I will give it to them as a gift...just as I need it.

Own my ongoing need for forgiveness...I am never above the need for forgiveness...therefore I am always willing to give what I am in need of!

Lets pray

end

Part 2 lovong others by forgivng them their wrongs

And yet it is not easy.

Many people struggle with forgiving others because they do not understand the value of it...

- **They reason that forgiveness is a sign of weakness, They reason that If I forgive a person...that is like saying it was ok what they did...and that is not fair**

- **I want revenge or vengeance for the pain caused me... Vengeance is an attempt to redress an interpersonal offense by voluntarily committing an aggressive action against the perceived offender.**
 - a. *Vengeance as balancing the scales.* One possible goal underlying vengeance is the desire to “get even,” “balance the scales,” or “give tit for tat.”
 - b. **I want Justice...I want them to pay back**
 - c. **I will never forgive ...until I get back what was taken from me...whatever it was**

Those are powerful emotional responses and seem to be worthy reasons...so little things I can forgive...not the big ones....which leads us to the question...

How many times a should I forgive others? Peter had the same question?

MT 18: 21 Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone^[i] who sins against me? Seven times?” 22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!^[i]

An infinite number of times...or as long as they are human...The number one reason why Forgiveness is so important.... Even when they are not sorry



1)I do my self a favor to forgive others...It is in your own best interest...it is good for you..

RO 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

- **First of all.. God will take care of evil...if not in this world the next... He is trustworthy for us to leave pay back to him. Forgiveness is mandatory...an act of obedience between us and God ...**

Galatians 6:7NIV Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

NLT Gal 6: 7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

- Scripture plainly teaches that you will reap what you so...
- I need a lot of mercy...so I am going to sow a lot of mercy...
- I do not want to reap a lot of judgment ...so I will sow much forgiveness...
- I want lots of love...so I will sow lots of love...
- I want lots of patience...I will sow lots of Patience
- I need healing ...so I will sow healing
- I want good...so I will sow good

Secondly...I do myself a favor because the best revenge is mercy....mercy is the opposite of revenge...and way more effective...

Ro 12:20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

- to heap revenge on the heads of your enemies, is not nearly as effective a revenge as pouring burning coals of mercy.
- Household flame always necessary to keep lit...but when it would occasionally go out...there was a business of carrying burning coals to a home to relight the fire...
- The idea being the one who lets it go out need forgiveness and new burning coals...

You bless the one who messed up...not judging but blessing...it will bug them...

- Now let me explain something here...forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation...
- Forgiveness is dropping the case...giving them to God...letting him deal with justice, revenge, hurt, and pain ...because he will...
- Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....

- Give visuals....two people one giving it to God
- Two moving toward each other
- One giving it to God and treating themselves right ...reconciling themselves to God and themselves.

3) Your capacity to love is in direct correlation to the capacity to forgive...

Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

- A spiritual principle... little forgiveness...little love...great forgiveness...great love
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It is interesting that the deeper our wounds the greater capacity to empathize with the pain of others followed by a deeper well of love toward God and others.....an understanding of the real human condition... all human relationships require ongoing forgiveness in order to thrive. Except one...our relationship with God...

- He never needs to be forgiven...for he neither wrongs anyone by commission of sin...by actions of wrong perpetrated against us
- Nor wrongs by the omission of sin.... By inaction of good toward us
- Though we may need to relinquish bitterness toward God for not acting as we believe he should have...not fulfilling our expectations of him...but the truth is he needs no forgiveness we simply do not see the complete picture of what is going on...

The one who never needs to be forgiven...is the source of forgiveness,,

- God's Mercy is based on his enormous capacity to love and to forgive.

- **You see God's enormous capacity to forgive is based on his love for individuals....**
- First, there is the forgiveness of God, which assures us of our worth and strengthens us to take this practice to heart in our doings. Then there is the forgiveness we extend to others, especially those who have harmed or wronged us in some way.
- **Finally, there is acceptance of forgiveness which enables us to release our guilt and self-perfectionism.** No matter how much we practice these three, it never gets any easier to do.
- **Forgiveness is the way to heal relationships, but also a way to heal ourselves. We are called to forgive even if the person who hurt us isn't sorry.**

End?

end

- **A good marriage is one where there are two good forgivers ...**
- **Many people struggle with forgiving others because they do not understand the value of it...**
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- **Scripture plainly teaches that you will reap what you sow...**
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The relationship may not be restored. But we are still called to renounce our anger, our desire for revenge, or any inclination to hurt the other person in return. Why?

- When I am angry at someone at home, or at work, I am often also angry with people who have nothing to do with the situation. I'll find myself yelling at my children because of some way I was bullied at work. I must forgive. In my experience, forgiving someone doesn't always make me hurt less. It just makes me less likely to hurt someone else.
- ***Secondly...I do myself a favor because the best revenge is mercy....mercy is the opposite of revenge...and way more effective...***

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You bless the one who messed up...not judging but blessing...it will bug them...

Without learning something of the meaning of forgiveness, we will never be able to form deep relationships.

You know your forgiveness always starts where you live...it is not limited to that but that is where it starts...

- It is often the hardest place to walk out love...why? Criticisms and rejection yours or theirs...
- The more you know someone...the greater their faults stand out, and their strengths diminish... dating you put your best foot forward...but it takes two to walk...
- The less you know someone the greater their strengths stand out and their faults are yet to be displayed...
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4) Understand the gravity of my own sin against God and others... keeps you humble

All wrong doing is first of all against God... although my sin will always effect others...it is first against God...

*PS 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.*

*PS 51:2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*PS 51:3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.*

*PS 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.*

- When I do wrong...it is first a violation of love towards God... then others
- You see God said to love our neighbors....when I violate that...I am first violating what he commanded
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- Do not minimize or discount how much your offense's hurt others... while magnifying theirs .
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Once I get right with God and others... then I am able to more clearly see others wrongs in a clear light...they are human too.. ...and like me they do not merit forgiveness but I will give it to them as a gift...just as I need it.

MT 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ^{MT 7:3} "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of

your eye,' when all the time there is a *plank* in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the *plank* out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

IF we see a speck in a brother's eye, we must first see if there is a log in our own eye; perhaps that speck in our brother's eye is only a reflection of the beam in our own.

Finally, there is the forgiveness we extend to others, especially those who have harmed or wronged us in some way.

It is one thing to "say" that we forgive someone, it is quite another to actually do it.

Forgiveness is not a state of mind; it is a state of the heart.

We are called to forgive even if the person who hurt us isn't sorry. The relationship may not be restored. But we are still called to renounce our anger, our desire for revenge, or any inclination to hurt the other person in return.

- Being able to forgive someone from a heart level is not something that comes to us naturally. If it did, God wouldn't have mentioned it so many times in the Bible.
- Forgiveness is in the Heart of God...He never needs it but is always willing to grant it

5) Forgiveness must come from the Heart...

MT 18:35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

- **Do you realize...Your capacity to love is in direct correlation to the capacity to forgive...**

Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

- A spiritual principle... little forgiveness...little love...great forgiveness...great love
- She knew what it meant to be a mess...so she could identify with the messy.
- She also knew what it meant of be forgiven.... Not being condemned any longer and the freedom it brought to her life...
- So to forgive others would bring freedom to them...
- Freedom to what?? Freedom to love and be around anyone...to longer less than but equal..
- Simon, on the other hand, had little regard for Jesus considered himself at the least equal to Jesus ...and much more worthy as a human being than this known sinner... and because he was self-righteous and blind to his own need for forgiveness...had little love or forgiveness to the human condition...
- Therefore like the Grinch his heart was two sizes too small!!

It is interesting that the deeper our wounds the greater capacity to empathize with the pain of others followed by a deeper well of love toward God and others.....an understanding of the real human condition...

Why? Because all relationships require ongoing forgiveness in order to thrive. Except one...our relationship with God...

- He never needs to be forgiven...for he neither wrongs anyone by commission of sin...by actions of wrong perpetrated against us
- Nor wrongs by the omission of sin.... By inaction of good toward us

The one who never needs to be forgiven...is the source of forgiveness,,

- **God's Mercy is based on his enormous capacity to love and to forgive.**
- **You see God's enormous capacity to forgive is based on his love for individuals....**
 - Only God can forgive that which is against him...
- . We owe to God a debt we could not pay...we cannot make up wronging God to God...
- God invented forgiveness in order to keep alive his romance with fallen humanity, but at infinite cost. His justice was fully satisfied at Calvary.
- all sin is sin against God. Only God can forgive that. But on the basis of our experience of that forgiveness we are to extend it to others who sin against us.
- when we choose to forgive another, there is always some sense in which we are accepting responsibility for the consequences of those sins.
- This is why forgiveness always has a cost to go with it. I bear in myself the price of the evil done. To give a simple illustration: if someone breaks a precious heirloom of mine and I forgive them, then I am offering to pay the cost, whether it be in the price of replacement, or of the loss.
- **It is interesting that the Hebrew word for "forgive" means two things, to remit a debt and to pay it. It is the same word for both.**
- **This is how the will of God works... what is expressly commanded is his will ...where there is no express command we are free to exercise choice with responsibility.**
- **And where there is a command ...he will enable us to carry it out**
- **We are commanded to forgive...so we can do it...and the cost of not doing it is God will not forgive our disobedience in choosing to not forgive.**
- **So unforgiveness is first a sin against God's revealed will.**
- **So when we choose not to forgive we choose to be disobedient to God...continuing in the sin of being the Judge of not only people but also God...he will not forgive that.**

*****This is why it is so important to forgive...it keeps our relationship with God right...**

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RO 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

- **The power of the Gospel ..is the gift forgiveness of sin thru Jesus Christ**
- But it is complete and utter foolishness...to those who reject a need to be forgiven of sin

1CO 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

But it is available for all...it is the key to a changed life... being forgiven and offering forgiveness...Forgiveness is a God character trait...a God thing..it is not natural for man.

Why? Sin or wrong doing breaks relationship... between God and others Sin breaks the intimacy of the relationship...

I cannot love God until that which separates me from him is removed...sin.

- **I am reconciled to him by receiving forgiveness of those things which have been done to harm the relationship...or sin.**
- **And he has already forgiven us...**

When Jesus paid for our transgressions on the cross, all of them were future transgressions, so forgiveness was already there. Although, you cannot escape the consequences of continuing in transgression.

RO 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Forgiveness has already been given, it just needs to be received. Received means that you reach out and take it, because it's a gift Romans 6:23.

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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First, there is the forgiveness of God, which assures us of our worth and strengthens us to take this practice to heart in our doings.

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In order to forgive others I must first come to grips with my own need for forgiveness... it is a continuing need!

6) Understand the gravity of my own sin against God and others... keeps you humble

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*PS 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God,
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*PS 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.*

- When I do wrong...it is first a violation of love towards God... then others
- You see God said to love our neighbors....when I violate that...I am first violating what he commanded
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Finally, there is the forgiveness we extend to others, especially those who have harmed or wronged us in some way.

It is one thing to "say" that we forgive someone, it is quite another to actually do it.

Forgiveness is not a state of mind; it is a state of the heart.

We are called to forgive even if the person who hurt us isn't sorry. The relationship may not be restored. But we are still called to renounce our anger, our desire for revenge, or any inclination to hurt the other person in return.

- Being able to forgive someone from a heart level is not something that comes to us naturally. If it did, God wouldn't have mentioned it so many times in the Bible.
- Forgiveness is in the Heart of God...He never needs it but is always willing to grant it

7) Forgiveness must come from the Heart...

*MT 18:35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your **heart**."*

- **Do you realize...Your capacity to love is in direct correlation to the capacity to forgive...**

*Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been **forgiven**--for she loved **much**. But he who has been **forgiven little loves little**."*

- A spiritual principle... little forgiveness...little love...great forgiveness...great love
- She knew what it meant to be a mess...so she could identify with the messy.
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- Freedom to what?? Freedom to love and be around anyone...to longer less than but equal..
- Simon, on the other hand, had little regard for Jesus considered himself at the least equal to Jesus ...and much more worthy as a human being than this known sinner... and because he was self-righteous and blind to his own need for forgiveness...had little love or forgiveness to the human condition...
- Therefore like the Grinch his heart was two sizes too small!!

It is interesting that the deeper our wounds the greater capacity to empathize with the pain of others followed by a deeper well of love toward God and others.....an understanding of the real human condition...

Why? Because all relationships require ongoing forgiveness in order to thrive. Except one...our relationship with God...

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The one who never needs to be forgiven...is the source of forgiveness,,

- God's Mercy is based on his enormous capacity to love and to forgive.
- You see God's enormous capacity to forgive is based on his love for individuals....
Only God can forgive that which is against him...
- . We owe to God a debt we could not pay...we cannot make up wronging God to God...
- God invented forgiveness in order to keep alive his romance with fallen humanity, but at infinite cost. His justice was fully satisfied at Calvary.
- all sin is sin against God. Only God can forgive that. But on the basis of our experience of that forgiveness we are to extend it to others who sin against us.
- when we choose to forgive another, there is always some sense in which we are accepting responsibility for the consequences of those sins.
- This is why forgiveness always has a cost to go with it. I bear in myself the price of the evil done. To give a simple illustration: if someone breaks a precious heirloom of mine and I forgive them, then I am offering to pay the cost, whether it be in the price of replacement, or of the loss.
- **It is interesting that the Hebrew word for "forgive" means two things, to remit a debt and to pay it. It is the same word for both.**
- **This is how the will of God works... what is expressly commanded is his will ...where there is no express command we are free to exercise choice with responsibility.**
- **And where there is a command ...he will enable us to carry it out**

- We are commanded to forgive...so we can do it...and the cost of not doing it is God will not forgive our disobedience in choosing to not forgive.
- So unforgiveness is first a sin against God's revealed will.
- So when we choose not to forgive we choose to be disobedient to God...continuing in the sin of being the Judge of not only people but also God...he will not forgive that.

***This is why it is so important to forgive...it keeps our relationship with God right...

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus showed his recognition of this by including our request for God's forgiveness, and our offer of it to others, as part of our regular praying.

MT 6:12 Forgive us our debts, (forgive us what we cannot payback) as we also have forgiven our debtors. (As we do the same)

1John 3:10 are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

- **There is a difference between earth and heaven...in heaven no evil ...on earth a mixture of good and evil therefore the ongoing need to forgive ourselves and others**

MT 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (and because of our capacity to do evil...we are commanded to forgive)

- Without forgiveness, we will never be able to form deep relationships. And yet it is not easy.
- A good marriage is one where there are two good forgivers ...
 - a. Many people struggle with forgiving others because they do not understand the value of it...
 - b. They reason that forgiveness is a sign of weakness
 - c. They reason that If I forgive a person...that is like saying it was ok what they did...and that is not fair
 - d. I want revenge for the pain caused me
 - e. I want Justice...I want them to pay
 - f. I will never forgive ...until I get back what was taken from me...whatever it was

Those are powerful emotional responses and seem to be worthy reasons...
So why would God ask us to forgive others?

*MT 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to **seven times**?" ^{MT 18:22} Jesus answered, "I tell you, not **seven times**, but **seventy-seven times**.*

- **An infinite number of times...or as long as they are human...**
- the number one reason why Forgiveness is so important.... Even when they are not sorry

I do myself a favor to forgive others...It is in your own best interest...it is good for you..

*RO 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "**It is mine** to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."*

- **First of all..**

- God will take care of evil...if not in this world the next...
- He is trustworthy for us to leave pay back to him.
- Forgiveness is mandatory...an act between us and God

- **Secondly...I do myself a favor because the best revenge is mercy....**

²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

- **to heap revenge on the heads of your enemies, is not nearly as effective a revenge as pouring burning coals of mercy.**

- **Now let me explain something here...forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation...**

- Forgiveness is dropping the case...giving them to God...letting him deal with justice, revenge, hurt, and pain ...because he will...
- Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....
- Give visuals....two people one giving it to God
- Two moving toward each other
- One giving it to God and treating themselves right ...reconciling themselves to God and themselves.

4) I reap what I sow... Scripture plainly teaches that you will reap what you so...

Galatians 6:7NIV

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he **sows**.

^{NLT7} Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

- **Scripture plainly teaches that you will reap what you so...**
- **I need a lot of mercy...so I am going to sow a lot of mercy...**

- I do not want to reap a lot of judgment ...so I will sow much forgiveness...
- I want lots of love...so I will sow lots of love...
- I want lots of patience...I will sow lots of Patience
- I want good...so I will sow good

5. Jesus ministry emphasized Mercy...so as his representatives our ministry must emphasize compassion also.

- Mercy was best demonstrated by his choice to show mercy and ask mercy on those who murdered him... the worst crime possible

LK 23: 34 Jesus said, "**Father, forgive** them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- **Forgiveness is only really meaningful when we forgive what is unforgivable. Murdr in the TO is unforgiveable ...Mercy is giving what is not deserved...**
- **Get the picture...**

MIC 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love **mercy** and to walk humbly with your God.

- Mercy says to a person ...you are valuable...
- it reclaims, affirms that people are more than what they have done at a particular time in their lives...

It is exactly what God says to each one of us...in mercy he says I see you as more than someone deformed by sin....

end

And I want you as my son or I want you as my daughter...that can only be done through a heart of forgiveness...

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- **It has been said: A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers. Not only in a marriage but in every human relationship that will last...must be based on a continuing attitude of forgiving one another.**

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In order to forgive, it is essential that we decide we **want** to forgive the one who injured us. Without this decision, forgiving is not usually possible.

Forgiving happens inside the person who does it. Forgiving welcomes but does not depend upon the repentance of the injurer.