

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY

Taking Ground

January 28, 2024

Pastor Mike Rippy

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15

"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?' Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:36-39

Taking Ground Starts When I'm Right with God & Others.

1. I can have a right relationship with God when I ask for forgiveness.
2. I can have right relationships with others when I offer forgiveness.

"So, if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God." Matthew 5:23-24

"Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No!' Jesus replied, 'seventy times seven!'" Matt. 18:21-22

What Happens When I Don't Forgive?

- I disobey God's instructions.
- My anger is intensified.
- I re-live painful experiences.

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

forgive your sins.” Matt. 6:14-15

How Can I Begin to Forgive?

1. Identify the people who have *hurt you*.

2. Determine what they *owe you*.

3. Cancel their *DEBT*.

He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. Colossians 2:14

“You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Col. 3:13

❖ Don't focus on the one who has hurt you...rather, focus on the one who paid such a high price to ***FORGIVE YOU!***

“People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God. It was never between you and them anyway.” ~ Mother Teresa

2024 WINTER/SPRING LIFEGROUPS

➤ The Lifegroup semester is 13 weeks: February – May 4

➤ There are all types of groups but most fall into one of four categories:

Faith – Family – Fellowship – Financial

➤ Sign-up today and get ready for the best year of your life!