

Forgive & Live Week 5

Living as Free People

Jesus shows forgiveness through

_____.

Components of Compassion

- 1) _____ my offender's story.
- 2) Know I am just as _____ of sinning as my _____.
- 3) Knowing that my _____ to God is much bigger than my offender's _____ to me.

Jesus shows his forgiveness through

_____.

Forsaking revenge is _____ revenge in order to leave room for the _____ or judgment of God.

Jesus' way was not "_____ makes right," but _____ brings life.

We want revenge for 2 reasons:

- 1) We believe that our offender should _____ for what they have _____.
- 2) we want our offender to _____.

Revenge is anything that we do to _____ that we are hurt, without actually _____ it, or anything that we do to _____ another because we are hurt.

"A boundary is a personal property line that marks those things for which we are responsible. In other words, boundaries define who we are and who we are not." Townsend and Cloud

Guidelines about boundaries.

- 1) Make sure that they are about keeping you _____ and not about hurting your offender.
- 2) Make sure that there is room for _____.

Jesus shows his forgiveness is through _____.

Desiring restoration is desiring the _____ for our offender which is to be in a totally _____ and healthy relationship first with _____ and then with others.

Four elements of desiring restoration

- 1) Separating the _____ from the behavior.
- 2) Imagining the _____ of the repentant offender.
- 3) Desiring change for our _____ sake, not our own.
- 4) Trusting God for His _____ and strength.

What does desiring restoration look like?

_____, _____, _____

Restoration requires both _____ and _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you notice as you did your homework this past week?
2. The speaker said that given the right set of circumstances, each of us is capable of committing any sin. What do you think of this statement? Have you ever done anything you thought you would never do?
3. The speaker listed several forms of revenge, such as, silent treatment, guilt heaping, passive-aggressive behavior, gossip, verbal assault, and physical assault. There are many other forms of revenge. What is your favorite form of revenge?
4. The speaker said, "Jesus' way was not "Might makes right," but death brings life. What does this statement mean to you?
5. Read Psalm 139:13-17 on the opposite page, putting your name in the blanks. What emotions does that make you feel? Now read it again, putting your offender's name in the blanks. What emotions does that make you feel?
6. Do you tend to not set boundaries, or do you tend to set too many boundaries? Why?
7. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your compassion, forsaking revenge and desiring restoration? A rating of 1 would be, "I want them to rot in the dungeon for eternity." A rating of 10 would be, "I understand some of what motivated my offender to do what they did, and I pray each day that God would bless them and draw them nearer to him." What is one thing you can do this week to grow in those areas?

Homework Activity: Write a prayer for each of your offenders this week, that God would show his love to them and draw them closer to him. Bring your "case files" with you to group next week.

Psalm 139:13-17

You made all the delicate, inner parts of _____ body
and knit _____ together in _____ mother's womb.
Thank you for making _____ so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.
You watched _____ as I was being formed in utter
seclusion,
as _____ was woven together in the dark of the
womb.
You saw _____ before _____ was born.
Every day of _____'s life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.
How precious are your thoughts about _____, O God.
They cannot be numbered!