

Sermon Notes

Forgive Because You Have Been Forgiven

Matthew 18:21-35

by Christian Sanich, 8/29/2021

There may be Q&A at the end as time allows. So note your questions.

The limits of forgiveness - asked by Peter, answered by Jesus

Our forgiveness should be limitless.

(Ref.: Genesis 4:23-24)

Christians are supposed to be extreme forgivers.

Parable of the king and his servants

The king forgives the servant's gigantic, unpayable, debt.

The king represents God.

Every human has a sin debt to God, which we can't pay back.

God has forgiven us our sins, in Christ.

The forgiven servant refused to forgive his fellow-servant.

This debt was significant, but comparatively very little.

If we behave this way it's terrible hypocrisy.

God has forgiven us, in Christ, such a huge debt that we should forgive our brothers in Christ their sins against us, even significant or repeated ones.

The king's punishment of the unforgiving forgiven servant

God will deliver us to earthly torment.

True forgiveness is a response to repentance.

This is the way God forgives.

In the parable, repentance is represented by pleading.

Luke 17:3-4, "if he repents, forgive him"

You must forgive from your heart, not superficial.

This doesn't mean we just do it in our heart, and won't have anything to do with the offender anymore.

What should forgiveness look like?

No revenge. No hate. But more than that.

No bitterness. Work on restored relationship.

Don't treat them like they owe you.