

LIVING for GIVING

#13 “TIME TO FORGIVE”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Outline Notes

The Kingdom Life is INACCESSIBLE WITHOUT

FORGIVENESS

Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil....³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Eph. 4:26b-27, 32 NLT

I. Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Forgiveness is not HUMBLING OUR OFFENDERS

It is HUMBLING OURSELVES

How do those who forgive counter the pride engendered by their own presumed innocence? We realize that though we may be innocent victims we have committed equal or even worse offenses at other times of our lives. - MV

II. Matthew 5:43–48 (NLT)

⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends,* how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Forgiveness is not ABOUT FINDING PERSONAL PEACE

It is OVERPOWERING EVIL WITH GOOD

Forgiveness is not a private, virtuous act. It's part of a larger strategy of overcoming evil with good and bringing about reconciliation. It doesn't just relieve us from bitterness and resentment. It enacts love for the enemy. - MV

III. Matthew 18:15-18 (NASB)

¹⁵ If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother... ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Forgiveness is not THE END OF THE STORY

It is THE BEGINNING OF NEW LIFE

On that day, God will condemn all sins and yet forgive them. The light of God will shine into all dark corners of our lives and our hearts, and we will know ourselves as we are known by God. The love of God will finally and definitively release us from all guilt and fear of punishment, and we will love ourselves and others as we are loved by God. - MV