

TRUE LOVE FORGIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

WORSHIP

Think About His
Love, Love So Great,
His Mercy Is More

WELCOME

On a scale of 1-5, 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest, how quick are you to forgive others who hurt you?

WORD

2 SAMUEL 9:1-8; 11

Then David said, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul, so that I could show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” ² Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they summoned him to David; and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” And he said, “I am your servant.” ³ Then the king said, “Is there no one remaining of the house of Saul to whom I could show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan, one who is disabled in both feet.” ⁴ So the king said to him, “Where is he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar.” ⁵ Then King David sent messengers who brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. ⁶ Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, “Mephibosheth.” And he said, “Here is your servant!” ⁷ Then David said to him, “Do not be afraid, for I will assuredly show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you yourself shall eat at my table regularly.” ⁸ Again he prostrated himself, and said, “What is your servant, that you should be concerned about a dead dog like me?... ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, “In accordance with everything that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table as one of the king’s sons

We are now on Episode 3 of our LOVE SERIES and we have been learning a lot about what true love is. We have learned that “Love is, love does”. God is the source of true love, and we are to reflect the same love that we receive from him.

As we have perfume testers available in stores to test a perfume’s scent, true love should also be tested. Last week we continued part 2 of our discussion on loving difficult people. We are reminded that when we think about difficult people, we have to first look at ourselves in the mirror to realize that we too are at times unlovable needing the same grace and forgiveness from others. Today’s topic on forgiveness may be a difficult topic for some of us, but nonetheless is important to learn because true love forgives.

FORGIVENESS IS UNCONDITIONAL

Forgiving others, like loving difficult people, is also a conscious choice that we make and extend to others. As we look at a portion of David’s life that illustrates how true love forgives, we keep in mind that even after all the hardship that David experienced, he never once tried to overthrow Saul’s rule even though Saul on different occasions have threatened David’s very life. We also see how David did not hold any bitterness towards Saul and his family evidenced by his mourning over the death of his good friend Jonathan and even King Saul (**2 Samuel 1:11-12**). We go now into **2 Samuel 9:1** where David was looking for someone from Saul’s family whom he can show kindness to. This was an action beyond logic because anyone remaining from Saul’s family line was a political threat to David and his kingdom. But David made an amazing decision that not only will he forgive, but he will also fulfill his promise to his good friend and Saul’s heir, Jonathan (**1 Samuel 20:14-15**). We cannot give what we do not have; Saul may not have asked to be forgiven by David, but the kindness David experienced from Jonathan impacted David to demonstrate kindness even to his rival’s family—the very family of Saul. This is the kind of love that Christ demonstrates towards us. In **Romans 5:8** it says that “**while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” God through Christ showed us grace. Grace is translated as “unmerited favor”; this means that even while we were still lost in our sin, even before we even asked for forgiveness, God’s forgiveness was already available for you and for me.

FORGIVENESS IS UNDESERVED

In **verse 3**, David now says “**Is anyone still alive from Saul’s family? If so, I want to show God’s kindness to them.**” What is God’s kindness? It is not of earthly origin. David made the decision to forgive, and he also made the decision to give up his right to get even. Mephibosheth was undeserving of David’s kindness for 2 reasons:

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- 1.) He was an enemy – he belonged to the family of Saul, and as mentioned earlier, was a political threat to David.
- 2.) He was helpless – he hails from a pasture-less land called Lo-Debar, and because of his condition he had no economic contribution and was heavily dependent on others for his daily needs.

And yet in all of this David sought for Mephibosheth. We know that we too were helpless, morally weak and sick, and failed to honor God as holy (**Isaiah 64:6; Romans 5:6**). It was our sins that drove the nails in Jesus' hands. **Luke 23:34** tells us that on the cross Jesus prayed, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" We were helpless because of sin, yet God showed us unmerited favor through Christ on the cross. David experienced God's kindness and in return he wanted to extend it to Mephibosheth. When we understand the forgiveness of God in our lives, we are able to pass it to other people in our lives who need it.

FORGIVENESS IS UNLIMITED

For the past two weeks we learned that love always results in the glory of God. David sought for someone in the family of Saul to show God's kindness to. Can we assure the same kindness when we come face to face with those who hurt us? In **Matthew 18:21-22**, Peter asked Jesus "**Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?**" Jesus answered, "**I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**" According to Jewish teaching, forgiving people was up to three times, which means that Peter was probably boasting when he more than doubled the required three times in his conversation with Jesus. However, Jesus set a higher standard on forgiveness by saying that we are to forgive 70x7, in other words we are to forgive beyond what we could count.

"Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness means "favor that cancels", it is not based on the merit of the one asking or needing forgiveness. David showed this kindness to Mephibosheth as he restored Saul's land to him and also let him eat at his table like one of his sons. Jesus extends the same invitation to us in **Revelation 3:20**, He invites us to experience His grace and forgiveness. May God's love fill our hearts and overflow that we may be able to set ourselves and others free by extending the same forgiveness that we received from God (**Matthew 6:12**). Let us also practice seeking forgiveness from those we have sinned against and may have hurt and seek to improve the way we show love to others by God's grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What do you struggle with most about forgiveness?

2. Setting It Right

Are there people from whom you need to ask forgiveness? What will you do about it?

3. Living It Out

With whom will you share what you learned today about forgiveness?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those you know need to experience God's forgiveness through Christ. Show them the kindness that you have received from the Lord! Seek them out and share the gospel to them.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



32 Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32