

THE RELATIONSHIP CHOICE

Life's Healing Choices: The Beatitudes – Part 6

November 8, 2009

Matthew 5:7 (TEV) *"Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!"*

Matthew 5:9 (TEV) *"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them His children!"*

THE RELATIONAL CHOICE: *Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me, and make amends for harm that I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.*

Matthew 18:21-22 (MSG) *"At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, 'Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?' 22 Jesus replied, 'Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.'"*

PRINCIPLES OF FORGIVENESS

1. Because I've been _____, I can _____.

Matthew 18:23-24 (MSG) *"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. 24 As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars."*

Matthew 18:25-27 (MSG) *"He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. 26 The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' 27 Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt."*

Luke 15:12 (NLT) *"'I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons."*

Luke 15:13 (NIV) *"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living."*

Luke 15:20 (NLT) “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”

2. The _____ become the _____.

Matthew 18:28-30 (MSG) “He came upon **one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him** by the throat and **demanding, 'Pay up. Now!'** ²⁹ The poor wretch threw himself down and **begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.'** ³⁰ But he wouldn't do it. He **had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid.**”

Matthew 18:32-34 (MSG) “ ‘You evil servant! **I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy.** ³³ **Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?**’ ³⁴ The king was furious and put the screws to the man.”

Matthew 5:7 (NLT) “God blesses **those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**”

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT) “**If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.** ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

James 2:13 (NLT) “For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. **But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over His judgment against you.**”

How Do You Become A Forgiver?

Σ The first step: _____ to the Cross.

Mark 11:25 (NLT) “**But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.**”

Σ The second step: _____.

Luke 6:37 (NLT) “**Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. Stop criticizing others, or it will all come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven.**”