

Stuck in the Elevator – Part 2

Prerequisite for Forgiveness:

When I am offended, what do I want to see happen to that person?

- Justice – I want them to be punished for their sin or hurt or offense towards me
- Mutual suffering
- Apologies with groveling and begging
 - And even if they do that – I might not forgive them right away anyway....

Types of Offense:

- Unintended
 - Unaware – I didn't even know I had done it
 - Insensitive – because I am having a bad day & I don't care about your feelings or what you want
- Intended
 - Good
 - Harm – ex. Jacob and Esua

Biblical example: ESUA & Jacob

- *"41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. Rebekah "Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. 43*

Esua doesn't want to apologize – he wants justice, mutual suffering and death

Ways to Handle Offense:

Paul:

- Stand up for yourself – Paul Stood up for Himself: sometimes sin or wrongs have to be called out:
 - Paul is in the temple going through a purification process
 - Jews from Asia see him in there – they cause a riot of sorts
- Let Go: talking about lawsuit amongst Christian Brothers
 - 1 Cor. 6:7: "7The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. *Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?"*
- You could also become bitter and angry
 - ILL: Personal example
- Show Mercy
 - Could you by forgiving someone give them the single act of mercy that could change their life?
 - Discuss Personal examples

***Big Idea: Goal of Forgiveness: Reconciliation:

not just for you, not just for the other person, but for the body...

- 1 John 4:20 "If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."

To whom much is given much is required: Luke 12:48

- Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned...."
- Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life"
- Romans 5:8 [6-11]: "But God demonstrated his own love ..."

See the Foundation is Love:

- 1 Cor. 13: 4-8 "4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is ***not self-seeking***, it is ***not easily angered***, it ***keeps no record of wrongs***. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always *protects*, always *trusts*, always *hopes*, always *perseveres*. 8Love never fails..."

How do I demonstrate that kind of forgiveness:

1. Simple Choice: it was on the list: realize you have not right the prerequisites [****CROSS THEM OFF YOUR NOTE SHEET – They are not your right anymore**]
2. Choice and a process:

Take it home:

- Maybe you hurt someone
- Maybe someone hurt you – talk to them let it go
- Maybe you are bitter and don't want to let it go – I DON'T THINK GOD FORCES YOU OUT OF BITTERNESS
- Maybe tonight you need to get right with the Lord
- Or maybe you need to meet the Lord for the first time

I want to close with this....

Would you want God to deal with you the same way you have dealt with others?