



Series: How do WE walk with Christ? (02)

Title: Forgiving the people in your life

Scripture: Isaiah 1:1-20; Hosea 1:4-9, 2:16-23, 3:1-5; Colossians 3:12-14

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. — Colossians 3:12-14

Big Idea: God forgives us, so we **must** forgive one another.

Truth: Forgiveness is a decision rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How do people sin against God and one another? (Isaiah 1:1-17)

1. We rebel against those who **love** us. (Isaiah 1:2-3)
2. We fight when we do not get our **way**. (Isaiah 1:4-6)
 - a. We hurt ourselves in the process of our own rebellion.
3. We lose things, we get angry, we are humiliated, and we hold **grudges**. (Isaiah 1:7-10)
4. We search for meaning and value from **actions** and **things** rather than God. (Isaiah 1:11-17)

What happens when people sin and there is no forgiveness? (Hosea 1:4-9)

1. Relationships are **corrupted** and fractured. (Jezreel) (Hosea 1:4-5)
 - a. Jezreel is a paronomasia
 - i. Israel "Wrestles with God, prince with God" becomes Jezreel "scattered by God"
 - ii. Bethel "House of God" becomes Bethaven "house of vanity"
2. No mercy is **given**. (Lo-ruhama) (Hosea 1:6-7)
3. People are **cut off**. (Lo-ammi) (Hosea 1:8-9)

What is forgiveness? (What does forgiveness look like?) (Isaiah 1:18-20)

Definition of forgiveness: "Forgiveness is an act of will to release a person from the obligation that resulted when they injured you."

1. Forgiveness is an **invitation** from God to meet God on His terms. (**Isaiah 1:18**) *"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*
 - a. God's terms are generous - He does all the **giving** in forgiving.
Isaiah 28:16-18 *16 therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.' 17 And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter." 18 Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it.*
Isaiah 43:25 *I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.*
Isaiah 44:22 *I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.*
Isaiah 53:5-6 *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
Isaiah 53:11-12 *Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see [i] and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*
2. Forgiveness is **complete**. (**Isaiah 1:18**)
3. Forgiveness is **undeserved**. (**Isaiah 1:18**)
4. Forgiveness has to be **acknowledged**. We have to agree with it in order to receive it. (**Isaiah 1:19-20**) *19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; 20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*
 - a. God is content whether we receive His forgiveness or not.

**What happens when people are forgiven by God and forgive others?
(Hosea 2:16-23; 3:1-5)**

1. God unites us in **relationship** to Him forever. (Hosea 2:16-20)
 - a. We are united in God's **position**. (*in righteousness and in justice* - v. 19)
 - b. We are united in God's **person**. (*in steadfast love and in mercy* - v. 19)
 - c. We are united in God's **presence**. (*in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord* - v. 20)
 - d. We are united in God's **provision**. (v. 21-22)
2. God gives us **mercy**. (v. 23)
3. God unites us to His **people** forever. (v. 23)
4. God gives us the power to forgive and to **restore** right relationships. (Hosea 3)

Picture of President James Garfield & Lucretia (wife)

