

Loving Ourselves and Forgiving Others

Sermon Outline (Genesis 50:15-21 and Matthew 18:21-35)

- I. When we're free of guilt, transformation and healing can occur.
 - A. Last month I spoke about Joseph & trusting God through our forgiveness.
 - 1. Betrayed by bros/others falsely accused him
 - 2. In God's timing-released/served Pharaoh.
 - 3. Bros didn't recognize him/he tested them.
 - 4. Revealed himself/forgave them w/emotion.
(forgiveness = willingness to bear pain
(you release them from a debt they owe you)
 - 5. Bros felt guilty/lacked assurance for 17 yrs.
 - B. Yancy's example.: Rebecca (husband unfaithful)
 - 1. 1st felt vengeful but chose to forgive them.
 - 2. Julianne became a Christian because of her.
 - C. Bros' guilt-relieved when Joseph reassured them.
- II. If we don't forgive, we'll hurt/be held in bondage.
 - A. Yancy writes, "not..forgive imprisons me in.. past, locks out potential for change...consequences."
 - B. A rabbi forgave Hitler (so as not to bring'm here)
 - C. We forgive because-morality/we love ourselves
 - D. Lewis Smedes, "set prisoner free/discover it's us."
 - E. When refuse to forgive, we can perpetuate hate
 - F. Gordan Wilson forgave his daughter's IRA killers
 - G. Unforgiving=in danger of us not being forgiven
 - 1. Mt. 6:14-15 "neither will Father forgive you"
 - 2. Mt. 18: in parable of unforgiving servant.
 - H. God lavishly forgives us; must extend it to others.
- III. You can forgive someone and still demand justice.
 - A. It doesn't mean we allow ourselves to be abused.
 - 1. Not addressing wrong, can enable it to continue.
 - 2. Tough love=confronting w/truth+seeking justice.
 - B. After 9/11/01, many in USA demanded justice.
 - C. We are not to hate any ethnicity or enemy.
 - D. 19th anniversary of 9/11-pray for our enemies.
 - E. Let's work for healing/peace by forgiving others!