

SERIES: SAY WHAT? – *Does God Really Forgive Everything?*

“Forgiveness Is For Giving”

Psalm 103:8-13
Tony Toth, Sept 8, 2019

I. THE NEED OF FORGIVENESS

A. We All Experience HURT

B. HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE

II. FORGIVENESS IS FOR GIVING NOT TAKING

Psalm 103:8 “*The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*”

A. RELEASING Blame

Psalm 103:9–10 “*He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not ... repay us according to our iniquities.*”

Acts 7:60 “*And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”*”

B. RESTORING Relationship

Psalm 103:11 “*For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love...*”

Job 22:23 NLT “*If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored— so clean up your life.*”

C. RENEWING Community

Psalm 103:13 “*As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.*”

Luke 15:24 “*For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.*”

III. THE DIFFICULTY OF GIVING FIRST

A. Setting Aside PRIDE

James 4:6 “*But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*”

B. Knowing The REASON Does Not EXCUSE The Action

Colossians 3:12–13 “*Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing 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.*”

THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

1. Why We Hurt. Discuss with your family and friends this week why “hurt people end up hurting people”. Why does this lead to cycles of hurt? How do we break those kinds of cycles?

2. Understanding the Reason: Have you been hurt by someone? Take some time this week to understand the reasons why they may have hurt you. Does understanding the reason help you show some grace? Breaking the cycle is about “not repaying according to their faults” but releasing blame.