

Can I really forgive?

Victoria Baptist Church 31st October
2010 - Dr Ian White
Matthew 18:21-35



5S *fifth* *sunday*

At your small group this week or for your own personal follow-up ...

What does forgiveness mean?

Whom should I forgive?

How often should I forgive?

Why must I forgive?

What should I do?

God forgives us our wrong-doing on the basis of what Jesus achieved on the cross. So spend some time talking about these areas:

What kinds of offences do you find most difficult to forgive?

See how Jesus' ministry of forgiveness was foretold in Matthew 1:20-21, John 1:29

Jesus said (see Luke 23:33-34) "Father forgive them because they don't know what they're doing". But what were they actually doing and what significance does it have for us today?

What part did forgiveness play in the events surrounding the healing of the paralytic? Luke 5:17-26

Jacob and Esau had had a bust-up which left them at daggers drawn (quite literally) So when Jacob finally had a meeting with his brother he began with deep trepidation. Read Genesis 33:1-3 and visualise the steps Jacob was taking - Do you think he was protecting himself or his family here? Now go on to read verses 4-15. What can we learn about reconciliation from this example?

Does forgiving someone mean that the offence is forgotten and has no further consequences? What do 1 John 1:8-10 and Psalm 51:1-3 tell us about our need for forgiveness?

Now pray about the things you have discovered tonight. (and if you wish you can communicate them via our web site or by e-mail to office@victoriabaptist.org.uk.)

God bless you!

IW

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www.victoriabaptist.org.uk