



discussion questions

January 24, 2021

Mark—The Scandal of Grace pt 4 Forgiveness

Belong

The following is a quote from C.S. Lewis. “To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” Do you think that is a good summation of forgiveness? Why or why not?

What ideas do we confuse forgiveness with that make it more difficult to forgive. Such as “forgive and forget”. Or equating forgiveness with being reconciled, or condoning an action.

Grow

Forgiveness—Matthew 18:21-35

1. Define forgiveness. Based on your definition, does it match what you see in Scripture? Explain.
2. Can forgiveness exist without God? If so, what is its purpose and value? Who gives it value and purpose? You can say it is relationally driven, or to benefit society, but on what basis can that claim be made?
3. What makes forgiveness easy or hard?
4. Do you tend to replay in your mind a hurt someone has caused you? How can that cause damage to your relationship?
5. From our text we are meant to see ourselves as the unmerciful servant. Why is that necessary to understand?
6. What fears, if any, do you have of forgiving someone?
7. How do you “demand payment” from those who have hurt you?
8. What is most difficult about extending forgiveness? Based on Jesus parable how can that be overcome?
9. What is most difficult about asking for forgiveness? What attitude(s) needs to be present?

Reach

Colossians 3:13— At a very basic level forgiveness is you making the decision to pardon an offense and then give up the right to be repaid. What can you do to make forgiveness a active or more active part of your life?

For a three step process see Psalm 139:23-24 (step 1). 1 John 1:9 (step 2). Then either ask for or grant forgiveness (step 3) Discuss.