

Flourishing in the Kingdom – Forgiveness

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 3.07

Bible Study

- Key Greek words
 - *aphiemi* (v): to be or become pardoned or exempt from consequences of an offense
 - *aphesis* (n): forgiveness, pardon; a formal release from an obligation or debt
 - *charizomai* (Gk, v): to give freely; to forgive someone on account of the goodwill one has toward them
- God's forgiveness
 - Spiritual Law of Sin and Death
 - Anyone who deviates from God's standard of righteousness will receive the judgment prepared for Satan and his angels
 - Eph 1:7, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."
 - "forgiveness" (Gk, n, *aphesis*)
 - To whose blood does this verse refer?
 - Who would grant the forgiveness and why?
 - What character trait motivated him to forgive us, according to this verse?
 - Eph 4:32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
 - "forgiving" (Gk, v, *charizomai*)
 - We all deserved to die for our sin, so why did God forgive us?
 - Jesus died for all sins committed by all people for all time
 - Jn 1:29, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"
 - 1 Pet. 3:18, "Christ died for sins once for all." (also Heb. 10:10, "once for all")
 - 1 Jn 2:2, "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
 - 2 Co 5:19a, "... that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them."
 - Since Jesus died for all of humanity's sin – past, present & future – are all people forgiven?
 - 2 Th 2:10, 12, ¹⁰ "They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.... ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

- What is the “truth” they refused to believe?
- To what extent did God forgive us?
 - Col 2:13, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins....”
 - “forgave” (Gk, v, *charizomai*)
 - 1 Jn 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
 - “forgive” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
- God forgave us completely while we were still sinners and allows us to either accept or reject his forgiveness
- However, there’s an exception
 - Mt 12:31-32,³¹ “And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”
 - “be forgiven” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
 - also Mk 3:28-29; Lk 12:10
 - What function does Holy Spirit perform that justifies this exception?
 - Jn 16:8-9,⁸ “When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me.”
- Jesus’ forgiveness
 - Mt 9:6, “But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....”
 - “forgive” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
 - also Mk 2:10; Lk 5:24
 - Lk 23:34, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”
 - “forgive” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
 - 1 Co 2:8, “None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
 - 2 Co 4:4, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers....”
 - Jn 12:31 refers to “the prince of this world” (also, Jn 14:30; 16:11)
- Our forgiveness
 - Mt 6:12, “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
 - “forgive” & “have forgiven” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)

- “debts” (Gk, n, *opheilema*): (1) debt, obligation (primarily financial); (2) offense, guilt, sin
- “as” (Gk, conjunction, *hos*): as, like, how, in what way
- “debtors” (Gk, n, *opheiletes*): debtor, offender; by extension: sinner
- Lk 11:4, “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.”
- our “sins” (Gk, n, *hamartia*): sin, evil, guilt; violation of God’s law
- “sins” against us (Gk, v, *opheilo*): (1) to owe, be obligated; (2) to offend, be guilty, sin
- Mt 18:21-22, ²¹ “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ ²² Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”
 - “forgive” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
 - my “brother” (Gk, n, *adelphos*): (1) natural brother, sibling; (2) fellow believer
 - Do you think Peter was referring to his natural brother, Andrew?
 - Lk 17:3c-4, ³ “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”
 - “forgive” (twice) (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
 - Where do we read that *agape* keeps no record of wrongs?
- Eph 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
 - “forgiving” & “forgave” (Gk, v, *charizomai*)
 - Col 3:13c, “Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”
- I choose to forgive everyone – including myself – for every embarrassing, hurtful & offensive word & action
- Our unforgiveness
 - Mt 6:14-15, ¹⁴ “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”
 - “forgive” (four times) (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
 - Is Father’s forgiveness of us dependent upon our attitude toward others?
 - Mt 18:35, “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”
 - “will treat” (Gk, v, *poieo*): to do, perform, practice, behave toward
 - “forgive” (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)

- “from your heart”; what does it mean to forgive others from your heart?
- To ask God to forgive our sin while we refuse to forgive others is both hypocritical and inconsistent with godly character
- Please consider that God totally forgave you and erased the record of your offense against him, then extend forgiveness to others in the same way
- Mk 11:25, “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”
 - “forgive” (twice) (Gk, v, *aphiemi*)
- Lk 6:37, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”
 - “judge” (Gk, v, *krino*): to judge or condemn as guilty
 - “condemn” (Gk, v, *katadikazo*): to pronounce guilt and a punitive sentence on someone in a legal context
 - “forgive” & “be forgiven” (Gk, v, *apolyo*): to release, set free, pardon
- We deceive ourselves if we think God automatically forgives us even if we refuse to forgive others

Questions

- How does forgiveness apply to our covenant relationship with God?
 - A covenant is a loving, enduring relationship in which each partner focuses on the other’s well-being and success, including what they deserve, need or want.
- How is forgiveness relevant to our activity in the kingdom?
- How does forgiveness apply to our interaction with evil spirits?
- How can we develop a forgiving attitude?

Conclusions

- To ask God to forgive our sin while we refuse to forgive others is both hypocritical and inconsistent with godly character.