

York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

Sunday May 27th, 2018
Speaker: Colette Harrison

When Relationships Go Pear Shaped

Genesis 50: 15-21



Please note that these studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday Sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing and supper.

To listen to this message again please head to the York St Website or download from iTunes.

Webpage: www.yorkst.com.au

GETTING STARTED

Question #1

Go round the group and complete this sentence:

Forgiveness is

(Don't think too hard about it. What's the first thing that comes to your mind?)

Question #2

The movie ***Love Story*** brought us some often quoted words:

"Love means never having to say you're sorry."

Why do you think this is still a compelling message in our culture today?

What other messages does our culture send us regarding what forgiveness is?

INTO THE BIBLE

Read Genesis 50: 15-21

Question #3

What did Joseph do when his brothers approached him for forgiveness? (v.7) According to v.18, how did they think Joseph would treat them? Why?

Question #4

Remember the chain of events that was set in motion by the actions of Joseph's brothers. Joseph was thrown in a pit, sold to traders, taken to Egypt, made a slave in Potiphar's house, falsely accused and convicted of attempted rape, and put in prison. In spite of all these injustices, Joseph forgave his brothers. How did Joseph explain his forgiveness for what his brothers had done? (v.19-20)

Read Matthew 18: 21-25

Question #5

What was the situation between the king and the first servant? How much did the servant owe the king? How did the king respond to the servant's request? (v.23-28)

Question #6

What was the situation between the first servant and his fellow servant? How much did the second servant owe? How did the first servant respond to his fellow servant's request? (v.29-30)

Note: The contrast between the debt we owed God and the debt others owe us is represented by the 10,000 talents and the 100 denarii. The 10,000 talents, the amount that the servant owed the king, is several million dollars, a debt too large to be repaid. The 100 denarii, approximately 100 days' wages, the amount that the servant owed his fellow servant, is a much smaller amount which could be paid back in a reasonable amount of time.¹

Question #7

What happened when the king found out how the first servant treated his fellow servant? (v.31-35)

¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, *The Parables of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1982), 62.

DIGGING DEEPER

Question #8

If we fail to forgive, the other person still controls our lives. We are in bondage, not them. Why is that?

Question #9

In **Genesis 50: 19-21**, Joseph models some principles for responding to hurt.

- Don't take the place of God-*let God judge!* (v19)
- Hold on to God's perspective-*life is tough, but God is good!*(v20)
- Practise God's values-*love your enemies!* (v21)

How can you apply these principles to your life?

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

-C.S. Lewis

Prayer

Forgiveness is a decision we make, not a feeling we wait for.

Jesus instructed his followers to forgive, however, the journey of forgiveness takes patience and time, and often demands repeating.

Are there people you struggle to forgive? Ask God to gently call those people to mind as you think about forgiveness and to help you as you journey through forgiveness.