

Philemon – Forgiveness 02.21.24

Forgiveness is one of nine big emotions. It is a choice we make with our head, but it only becomes real when it reaches our heart. The way we let it reach our heart is by genuinely loving the Lord and obeying Him.

Pastor Chuck talked about the parable in the bible of the unforgiving servant where he was forgiven by his master, yet when it came time for him to forgive and show others mercy, he chose not to. When he chose not to, he was sent to prison. Matthew 18:35 states, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) Think about this last week. Has there been any God moments in your life? Please share with the group.
- 2) What are you choosing to fast from during the 40 days of fasting for Lent? How are you doing with it?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW (*This section never changes*)

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1) Read Matthew 18:21-35 the parable of the unforgiving servant. What truth does this parable bring to your heart?
- 2) Forgiveness can bring us closer to Jesus and it can keep us distant from Jesus with not forgiving. Do you have anyone that you need to forgive? What is holding you back?
- 3) Read Matthew 6:15-15. Do these verses give you a different perspective on what you should be doing with forgiveness?

TAKING IT HOME

Forgiveness will free you from pain and hurt so it does not dominate your life. If you choose to hold onto hurt and bitterness, you are in turn creating your own prison. If we choose not to forgive it can poison every area of your life.

Pastor Chuck talked about questions he asks himself when needing to forgive someone.

- 1) Are we forgiven?
- 2) Do we deserve forgiveness?
- 3) Should we forgive others even if they do not deserve it?

What are these answers for you? Is there someone you have said you have forgiven, but it may have not reached your heart and become reality?

PRAYER TIME

Give a guided prayer instruction to tie it all together. Be mindful of the time it would take larger groups to get through the prayer exercise. It can be simple.

ACTION STEPS

This week pray to God and ask him to search you. Are there any hurts or bitterness that you still hold to for anyone? Have you said you have forgiven someone, but you still feel pain? Ask God to show you any areas in your heart that need to be addressed and ask God for the strength and guidance to take action to forgive and heal your heart.