

simple minded

thinking & loving like Jesus



Part 4: *Decluttering Through Forgiveness*

APPETIZER: The Human Problem

THE HUMAN PROBLEM – THREE STAGES...

- A. We were made by Love for love, by Relationship for relationship.
- B. We exchanged perfection for autonomy and now are born into brokenness, where hurt people hurt people.

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- C. Hence, we are inescapably/instinctively/unavoidably drawn toward and most hurt by the same thing – relationship.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM – 4 OPTIONS...

- 1) Rumination – Thinking ourselves to death.
- 2) Retribution – I don't get mad, I get even.
- 3) Repression – I'm fine, really. Just fine.
- 4) Forgiveness – It's time to leave the past in the past.

DINE IN: Forgiveness, Repentance, & Reconciliation

Matthew 5:21-26; Mark 11:25; Luke 17:3-10

Forgiveness:

The choice to set aside the debt of someone's wrongdoing against you; the cancellation of a relational debt.

- **Matthew 5:21-26** = If you need to repent – **leave now!**
- **Mark 11:25** = If you're holding a grudge – **forgive now!**
- **Luke 17:3-10** = If someone doesn't know yet – **go show them asap!**

I Know I Should Forgive, But...

#1. *BUT THEY WON'T REPENT!*

Mark 11:25; Luke 23:34; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:5

#2. *BUT I CAN'T FORGET!*

Psalms 103:12; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:19;
Hebrews 8:12; 10:17

VS.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 15:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-16

Philippians 3:6, 12-14

#3. *BUT I CAN'T TRUST THEM AGAIN!*

2 Samuel 12:13-14

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.
~ Romans 12:18

TAKE OUT: Daily Foot Washing

John 13:6-10

HOMework: Daily Forgiveness Meditation & Prayer

- Set your daily alarm just ten minutes earlier. Then rather than reaching for your phone or any other device first to catch up on social media, news, or email, reach for your Bible.
- READ & MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:11-12**.
- THEN PRAY: **Dear Father, please bring to mind anyone I am still judging or holding on to bitterness toward from the past day.** As God shows you, person by person, situation by situation, let it go.
- THEN PRAY: **Dear Father, please bring to mind anyone I have hurt, offended, or sinned against during the past day.** As God shows you, person by person, situation by situation, ask God to forgive you, and think of ways you can make it right with that person.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most encouraged, convicted, or perplexed you. Take your time here – there's lots to discuss!
2. Have you followed through on your homework? What difference, if any, has it made for you?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Psalm 32**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - b. What would it look like for you to be someone "in whose spirit is no deceit"? How might you act, think, and feel differently?
 - c. God's hand was heavy on David when he didn't confess his sin. Sometimes God makes us uncomfortable until we gather the courage to make a needed change. Has that ever been your experience?
 - d. What's with the "while you may be found" line in **verse 6**? What is David getting at? What could make God more difficult to find after time passes?
 - e. What do you think it means for us to relate to God as our "hiding place"? What does this look like, feel like?
 - f. God seems to start talking in **verse 8**. In **verse 9** God says he doesn't want to control us like a rider controls his horse. He calls and wants us to come willingly. How does this verse relate to things like being made in God's image and God's sovereignty?
 - g. Do you regularly "rejoice in the LORD"? If so, how do you feel/express this experience? What moves you to rejoice? If not, what do you think is holding you back?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Read **James 5:16**. And give space if anyone in your group wants to confess sin. If they do, simply pray for one another.
5. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other. (If you haven't already, remember to exchange contact information and arrange a time to talk, in person or on the phone.)

December 11/December 18, 2016 // @bruxy

Quotes

Welcome to our year-end series about decluttering our souls.

Today's message:

Part 4: *Decluttering Through Forgiveness*

Simplified living requires more than just organizing your closets or cleaning out your desk drawer. It requires uncluttering your soul.

~ Bill Hybels

The most important single concept in Christianity is that of forgiveness.

~ David Benner, *Psychiatrist*

When we forgive someone who hurt us, we join the rejoicing heart of God, we share his contagious pleasure in showing mercy.

~ David G. Benner, *Psychologist*

Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. And the hard truth is, all people love poorly.

~ Henri Nouwen

Forgiveness is the final form of love.

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

Forgiveness lays the basic foundation for any continuing relationship.

~ Dr. Chuck Lynch, *Theologian*

The rule of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth cannot sustain itself forever; ultimately both parties end up blind and toothless.

~ Gandhi

Didn't he and I stand together before an all seeing God convicted of the same murder? For I had murdered him with my heart and my tongue.

~ Corrie ten Boom, on forgiveness of Nazi guard

Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.

~ Martin Luther King Jr

Whoever seeks revenge should dig two graves.

~ Chinese Proverb

Without forgiveness, there is no future.

~ Bishop Desmond Tutu

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

~ The Apostle Paul

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them.

~ Jesus