



“Forgiveness: No Strings Attached”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 12 of 19

Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Mat Saxon | Latham Campus

Text: Matthew 6:14, “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,” (ESV)

I. Forgiveness is possible.

Matthew 18:21-22, “Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (ESV)

Colossians 3:12-13, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (ESV)

Romans 8:11-12, “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.” (NLT)

Matthew 6:14, “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,” (ESV)

II. Forgiveness is reasonable.

Matthew 18:23-28, “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him

and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'" (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22, "Also, do not pay attention to everything that people say; otherwise, you might even hear your servant cursing you. For you know in your own heart that you also have cursed others many times." (NET)

Matthew 6:15, "but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (ESV)

III. Forgiveness is of critical importance.

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (ESV)

2 Peter 1:10a, "Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election..." (ESV)

2 Corinthians 13:5a, "Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves..." (NLT)

1. Allow yourself to mourn.

Ecclesiastes 3:1,4, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;" (ESV)

2. But don't take your eye off the ball!

Hebrews 12:15, "Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." (NLT)

3. Ask God to give you the willingness to forgive.

Philippians 2:13, "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." (NLT)

4. Remember: Eventual forgiveness is better than no forgiveness.

Matthew 21:28-31a, ““But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go,’ but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, ‘You go,’ and he said, ‘Yes, sir, I will.’ But he didn’t go. “Which of the two obeyed his father?” They replied, “The first.” (NLT)

5. Don’t crucify yourself when you experience boomerang forgiveness.