

DEAR ABBA

Message #4 “God’s Model of Relational Grace”

Scripture: Col 3:13, Hebrews 10:17-22

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“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Col 3:13

God’s Model of Relational Grace

“Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” 18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” Heb 10:17-22

1. Grace chooses not **to keep score**. vs 17

“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, **it keeps no record of wrongs**. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Cor 13:4-7*

2. Grace chooses not **to be demanding**. vs 18

“And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.”

Notice

a. God’s grace is **unconditional**.

b. God’s forgiveness is not a **down payment with future installments**.

Forgiveness means:

- A. I will not anticipate their **faults & mistakes**.
- B. I will not **keep on reminding them** (& myself) of their failure.
- C. I will **quit exacting a payment from them** over and over again.
- D. I will not require them **to ask before** I give them grace.

3. Grace chooses not **to withhold love**. vs 19-22

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

God followed His promise to forgive with an invitation to reconcile.

God not only wants us to trust His forgiveness but draw near to Him in a relationship.

*“The decision by the community **to forgive** the killer and his family was not as simple as it has been seen to be...It’s not a once and done thing...It is a lifelong process.”* Linda Fisher (daughter Marian was killed 1st in Pennsylvania Amish School shooting 2006).

So how do I forgive?

- 1. Do I have the right to be angry? I Cor 13:4-8
- 2. Acknowledge they are not the only offender. Eph 4:32
- 3. Make a decision that freedom is worth more than your right to resent.
- 4. Ask God and give permission for Him to soften your heart.
- 5. Let go. Gen 50:19-21
- 6. Choose to focus on the present. Phil 3:13-14
- 7. Pray for them...often. Matt 5:44

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace

of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

Heb 12:14-15

Questions

The Holy Spirit has a way of bringing to our minds - what He wants to speak to us? How has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you today?

Who comes to mind when you hear the topic of forgiveness? Why? What is it about that relationship that brings hurt or pain?

How have your feelings toward this person/ people affected you? How has it impacted your relationship with the Lord? With others?

Sometimes when we are angry/unforgiving toward someone - we continue to want to make them pay - even if we have prayed to forgive them. What are some ways that you have been continuing to make them pay? Those are issues that we actually need to ask the Lord to forgive us. Take some time and ask the Lord to forgive you for holding on.

Our emotions are very real and forgiving doesn't mean we forget - it means we are making a choice to surrender that wound to the Lord. If you would like to do that right now- here is a prayer that may be helpful for you...

Lord,

As much as I try to let go of past hurts, I find that my bitterness seems to push its way back into my life when I think about _____. I don't want to hold onto that wound. I want to let go. So, Lord, I trust you enough to surrender justice into your hands. I ask you to do whatever you judge is right about this hurt. It is no longer mine to hold onto. I surrender _____ to you. I ask that you replace hurt and damaging emotions with peace and a heart that feels free. I choose to let go...in Jesus name, Amen.