

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Jesus Says - Week 6

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Introduction

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes time to address challenging topics that were significant issues for the people to whom he was speaking. These topics are still very relevant for us today; they traverse time and culture because they are issues of the human heart. Today we look at what Jesus had to say about forgiveness.

Bible Passage

Matthew 5:38-48

Discussion

1. Think of a time when you needed to forgive another person for an offence. How did you feel at the time? What changed this?
2. Why do we find it difficult to forgive when we have been wronged?
3. There are different levels of offence that may require a different heart level approach in order to truly forgive. Discuss.
4. When we forgive another person it can feel like we are letting them get away with the offence. Is this true? What did Jesus have to say about this? How do we benefit when we forgive someone?

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5. Read Matthew 5:43-45a. What impact can prayer have in such circumstances? Why does Jesus ask us to do this? Who benefits from this?
6. How can we love those who are not easy to love? Why is this necessary?

Respond

To forgive someone who has offended against us and to love someone who is not easy to love may run counter to our instinctive human response. However, if we are to reflect Jesus as his disciples we are called to do just this. Take a moment now to ask Jesus if there is anyone you need to forgive or show God's love to that you don't want to. What is the first step for you to do this? Commit to taking that first step now.

