

“THE RELATIONSHIP CHOICE”

Life's Healing Choices – Part 6

May 9th, 2010

Matthew 5:7 & 9 (GN) “Happy are those who are merciful to others;...Happy are those who work for peace;...”

Sixth healing choice: The Relationship Choice – Repairing Relationships: I evaluate all my relationships, offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me, and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.

We have been hurt by others, and we have hurt others mostly because we love poorly

Matthew 18:21-35 (TM) “At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, ‘Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?’ Jesus replied, ‘Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven. The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance, and I'll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt. The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’ The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king. The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

1. Because I have been forgiven, I can forgive

You and I owed a debt to God that was an unpayable debt

Why does God forgive you? It's because of Jesus

The debt you owed God did not remain unpaid

Sometimes we think if we come back to God & seek forgiveness, He will treat us harshly

Psalms 103:1 (RSV) “Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!”

We would be horrified if the real depths within us could be seen by others

God has seen it, but He doesn't run. He has had grace & mercy on you

I have a problem: I don't like to forgive

Our typical pattern – God forgives me, and I don't forgive you

2. The unforgiving become the unforgiven

When it comes to me being wounded, I'm not so interested in mercy; I want justice

If I am not forgiving, at the very least, I'm creating a torture chamber for myself

Matthew 6:12 (NLT) “And forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.”

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT) “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Mark 11:25 (NLT) “But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your

Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

Luke 6:37 (NLT) “Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. Stop criticizing others, or it will all come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven.”

James 2:13 (NCV) “So you must show mercy to others, or God will not show mercy to you when He judges you. But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment.”

“As long as we are unable to forgive we keep ourselves chained to the unforgiving. We give them rent-free space in our mind, emotional shackles in our heart, and the right to torment us in the small hours of the night.” Author unknown

“The saddest people I know are those who are unable to forgive.” John Perkins

Whatever wound we’ve received is not as grievous as the wound God has against you

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” C.S. Lewis

Becoming A Forgiver

1. Nail it to the cross

You have another chance today to begin releasing the hurt & forgiving

Perhaps the best barometer of your walk with God is your willingness to forgive

An unforgiving Christian is a contradiction; there is no such thing

2. Start right now

A counselor, pastor, or friend can’t release you, you must take it to Jesus’ Cross

My Next Step Today Is:

- There is someone in my life who has hurt me that I am forgiving today
- There is someone in my life that I have hurt that I am going to ask for forgiveness
- I will memorize Matthew 5:7 & 9
- I want to participate in the New Hope co-ed softball league beginning Sat, June 5th