

Forgive Your Brother From Your Heart

Matthew 18:15-35

Key Verse: 18:35

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

1. Read verses 14. What is the heart of God who gives these instructions? Read verses 15-17. What steps should one take to resolve a sin problem in a brother or sister? (fellow believer) Why and how is the church involved? What does this teach about the importance of dealing with sin in the church?
2. Read verse 17b? How do Jesus' people treat tax collectors and a pagan? What does it mean to treat a person as a pagan or a tax collector? Read verse 18. Compare 16:17-20. What do you think this means?
3. What promise is given in verses 19-20? What do these verses teach about the importance of community? About the nature of a local church?
4. Read verses 21-22. Why did Peter ask this question? What did Jesus teach about forgiveness? What does this mean to Peter? To us?
5. Read verses 23-27. What is Jesus parable about? Who does the king represent? What was the situation of one servant? What did the king first decide to do? When the servant pled for mercy what did the king do? How does this illustrate the grace of God to sinners?
6. Read verses 28-35. Later, what did the servant who had been forgiven his debt do? (28-30) When the master (king) heard about this, what did he do? (31-34)
7. What is the point that Jesus makes? (35) How is this connected with Jesus' teachings in verses 15-34? What is the message of this whole chapter? Why is forgiveness so important? What does this chapter teach about sin and grace and God's love?