

Wednesday night, 9/20/06

## Genesis: The Battle for Beginnings Week Twenty-One

**Message Truth:** Forgiveness means to cancel a debt in order to provide an opportunity for repentance and restoration of the broken relationship.

### Part 1: Biblical Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is necessary in terms of our \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Matthew 6:14-15

*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

- Failure to forgive makes your \_\_\_\_\_ bigger than God.

2. Forgiveness is also an essential part of our \_\_\_\_\_ toward others, both friends and enemies.

Ephesians 4:31-32

*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

### The Tragedy of an Unforgiving Spirit

*An unforgiving spirit leads to a life of inner bondage.*

- It is a bondage that stifles our ability to love and accept the ones who \_\_\_\_\_ it most.
- It is a bondage that spills over to other \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is a bondage that can be passed from one \_\_\_\_\_ to another.
- It is a bondage that chokes out the \_\_\_\_\_ that Christ promised to those who believe.

### Guidelines for Biblical Forgiveness:

1. Biblical forgiveness should be granted \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 4:26-27

*"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold.*

2. Biblical forgiveness should be granted \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 18:15

*"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over."*

3. Biblical forgiveness must be given \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Forgiveness is free in that the forgiver willingly accepts the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 23:25

*He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.*

4. Biblical forgiveness must be granted \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Biblical forgiveness seeks the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the offender.

Romans 5:20

*The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,*

## Part 2: The Role of Repentance

### Passing the Repentance Test

\* **First test:** Joseph's brothers had gotten to the place where they saw the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in their daily lives.

\* **Second test:** Joseph's brothers chose \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_.

*Repentance brings restoration.  
Forgiveness is a command; restoration is a privilege.*

### Three Lessons from the Life of Joseph

1. When I'm able by faith to see God's \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_, my attitude will be right with God.
2. When I am able by faith to sense God's \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_, my attitude will be right.
3. When I am able by faith to accept both location and situation as \_\_\_\_\_ even when there's been \_\_\_\_\_ in the process, my attitude will be right.