Jesus Unfiltered - **WK 8 – Forget you!**

**What is the hardest thing you ever had to do? Most often is connected to a relationship. Many times – the hardest thing is often - to forgiven.**

**How important is forgiveness - it's obvious... right?**

**I don't think we truly grasp how deeply important this is?**

**We are going thru the parables of Jesus (#1 way He taught). They are Jesus Unfiltered - Jesus way of weeding out the fans from followers.**

**Today’s parable - the Story before the story - Matthew 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Humility)**

**Forgiveness Ground Rules:**

1. **When dealing with people - Be the least**

**This is not about clearing the air – it’s about humility – teachable. The opposite of what we tend to do.**

**SBTS - Matthew 18:15 “If your brother or sister sins (offends you - shrug it off / pretend it didn't happen...no), go and point out their fault, (What? Confront) just between the two of you. (privately) If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ (hey dude, we have a problem) 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church (assembly of faith - leaders); and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (How did Jesus treat them? Love.)**

**This not only speaks of a simple process to dealing w/offenses - but it’s also a big concept in light of dealing w/ forgiveness**

1. **When dealing with offenses – We can’t ignore them**

**Forgiveness is not to "ignore it" or shrug it off - Deal with it! Talk it out if possible, try to restore - get others involved if necessary.**

**Sadly most run from confrontation – ending relationships**

**SBTS - Matt 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”**

**Sounds reasonable - If someone does something to you 6X - the 7th, POW! Jewish custom gave you 4 X - then you could bust 'em. That's 1...2...3...4 - "say hello to my little friend."**

**You would think Jesus would say - good job Peter, but... 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (so 490X - this is not about a number - but rather - it's bigger than a number - keep forgiving - stop counting)**

1. **When dealing with forgiveness – There is no cap**

**According to Jesus there’s no amount when you can hold the grudge – or withhold grace – or not offer a fresh start. But we usually have a cap**

**From here he gives a story to help us understand Kingdom forgiveness**

**Matthew 18:23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like (it’s like 10,000 bags of gold (talents), 100 silver coins (dinari), & 1 ticked off King) …like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold (600mil $$ - how’d he get there?) was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.**

**No bankruptcy only debtors prison - work off or rot there until money is raised - family forced into labor to pay it off (least to say - people did not rack up their credit cards...)**

**26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ (How in the world does he think he could ever pay off 600 Mil? Impossible) 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. (A good day - hug family - go out to dinner... instead...) 28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. (few mths work - $6000) He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. (Immediately listeners would have thought this guy is a sleaze ball) 29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ (sound familiar- reasonable- did he have pity on him?) 30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. (Que - ticked off king) 32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. (He will never live to see 600 mil paid off- never getting out. Next, we see the reality of kingdom forgiveness.) 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you (How will he treat us?) unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (Not just lip service)**

**We think (raise hand) Jesus? You didn't really mean that, right? Or - we think "God, I'll pay you back" BUT - we can't – impossible!**

1. **When dealing w/ offences - Forgiving is a big deal, a VERY big deal**

**Forgiveness is so important – it can even determine our eternity**

**Matthew 18:32-35, Matthew 6:9-14, Luke 11:1-4, Luke 6:37-38, Ephesians 4:30-32**

**It's not just a good thing - or the gold package for the really good Christians. It's essential to getting in the kingdom of God**

**If it’s that important, we better find out what true forgiveness means...**

**Kingdom Forgiveness - What God Expects From Us**

* **Forgiveness starts with a mirror - take a look at yourself**

**Matthew 18:32-35 - the king reminded him of his own debt**

**If I'm in that story and you owed me $6000 I'm angry - I could really use it - but if I look in the mirror, I see that I've been forgiven 600 million...**

**Funny - when we look at our past - we tend to remember how great we are - good things we've done. Most do not have a self -esteem problem. We explain away our sin- it was not really me**

**Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. - Similarly - Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

**We read those and think - I'll try to forgive them Jesus...**

**Jesus answers back - (w/ Yoda voice) "No try... do"**

**Matthew 6:9-15 - The Lords prayer - 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (What? do you realize what you’re saying?)**

**Imagine - God forgive me the same way I forgive my parents, kids, neighbor, boss, brother, my ex - Do you really want that?**

**6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Did Jesus literally mean that... YES)**

**Offended? Try this -Take a Sin Walk. When you struggle to forgive, take a walk, remember as far back as you can - think of everything you ever did wrong & hurtful... I've have been forgiven 600 mil. Forgiveness starts w/ a look in the mirror. What do you see?**

* **Forgiveness is never easy**

**When some say - "just forgive - it's easy.” It's not easy... it's cuts deep**

**If forgiveness was easy - and if justice is not needed - then why would Jesus need to go to the cross - because forgiveness hurts!**

**Jesus never asks us to do something he has never done - Luke 23:33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (even the ones driving the nails – that beat him - those who ran out on him - the crowd who turned on him)**

**But, I just can't let this one go - Well, take a walk to the cross – and explain to Jesus why this one can't be forgiven...**

* **Forgiveness is when there is no excuse**

**That man was guilty - the justice was fair. He owed! He was wrong - no excuses.**

**Often times we think we've forgiven, when we haven't - (not invited, something said behind back, lied to) 1 - Life is too short – shake it off - not a big deal / 2 - Sounds reasonable – Let them off the hook after you hear reason - I understand. Neither are acts of deep forgiveness.**

**You know forgiveness is needed when the person has no real excuse - it can't be explained away - it is a big deal.**

**God challenges me with this - it hurts. I have and am still learning.**

**Illus. This is my heart (have it grabbed) you stole from me, I want it back (have them rip it up) you will pay for it... you owe me - debt is created. Some of you have been robbed of trust / innocence / love**

**Forgiveness doesn’t excuse the pain - it does not mean it was not painful- just opposite. Forgiveness acknowledges pain**

**Kingdom Forgiveness - What is and what it is not...**

* **Forgiving doesn't mean – Forgetting - it**

**It’s not pretending it never happened - forget it. Told growing up anything God forgives and forgets - God gets amnesia**

**Jer 31:34 “I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”**

**Not about memory, but responding. God doesn’t condemn us for what He has forgiven / does not hold that debt over us.**

**Ro 8:1 - There is no commendation for those who are in Christ**

**God knows all things - God do you remember my sin? "Uhhh, remind me" Of course he knows. Forgive does not mean forget**

* **Forgiving doesn’t mean – Trusting - again**

**Okay - Here's another knife - stab me in the back - here's more money – go blow it - here's my heart – stomp on it…**

**Forgiveness is not having to trust again - trust is earned – Prov 14:15 The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.**

### If you've been hurt - you are not obligated to trust that person

### Forgiveness is giving a person a chance to earn trust back

### Not everyone has the right to family dinners... trust is separate

### This is our responsibility - Matthew 5:44 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... (Our response is love them & pray for them)

* **Forgiving doesn’t mean - No consequences**

**Forgiveness does not remove the consequences**

**David is called out, David repented - 2 Samuel 12:10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ (But I was sorry! Plus lots of family trouble)**

**God forgives us - and allows the consequences - so we too are to forgive and know there will be at times, consequences.**

**But, many of us do this (adding machine) we remember our family - former friend - old boss - and keep a tally / keep a tab of offences - and think they'll pay. We think forgiveness is tearing it off and filing it away**

* **Forgiveness means - Refusing to seek revenge**

**A lot of times we don't want to forgive - we want them to pay & the best person to make 'em pay is us. Feel what I feel- I'm going to do the same**

**(1 Peter 2:21-23) - Romans 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. (even when hurt - do the right thing) 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (do everything you can to keep peace) 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. (God will take care of it.) 20 On the contrary: (our role) “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” (that is brings healing, not pain) 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

**Forgiveness is believing God can deal out justice better than we can - God is a God of justice.**

**Paul tried to walk this out himself - 2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. (we don't know what it is) The Lord will repay him for what he has done. (I'm moving on...)**

* **Forgiveness means - Refusing to be consumed by the past**

**Stop playing it over and over - in my mind. I'm moving forward.**

**Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption (purchased, made valuable) through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.**

**We trade our past, our sin, wrongs done to us – our past is redeemed! His redemption is past, present, & future!**

**Forgiveness begins with putting your life… your past… your future in the hands of Jesus - who loves you and knows you best… There in the hands of Jesus you can see the past in a new perspective for the future**

* **Forgiveness means - Giving others what God gave you**

**This goes back to the mirror... what did God give you? He gave you a chance to start over... to begin again... to love again... trust again...**

**The King paid a debt that could never be paid, much like Jesus Christ did for us.**

**Jesus steps forward and pays the debt. If we acknowledge his payment - he stamps paid in full on the bill - forgiven and free of a debt we could never pay or ever repay. But what do we do when people do us wrong?**

**Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

**Remember my heart... that debt - what is the debt owed you? We can't live w/ that debt - it tears us apart inside (list/ tab is killing us) Problem is most things can't be paid back revenge sets in "they will pay and others like you" - Angry at life**

**Forgiveness is knowing Jesus paid the debt on the cross - for what you have done and what others have done & restores what was stolen**

**Keeping the debt is not needed anymore - I haven’t forgotten, it’s just paid for - it’s forgiven... the debt was paid, I am free**

**Forgiving Does not accept the offense / It does not mean you allow it to happen again / Does not mean you will ever forget... BUT - it means you will not seek payment (rip the tab) The debt is paid...**

**When we experience this, the HS gives us the power to forgive**

**Forgiveness is more important than you think – when we choose to not forgive... (Back the parable) Matthew 18:32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. (The cancelled debt – when he would not forgive - it was... reinstated... interesting... that is the words of Jesus) 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”**

**Who do you need to forgive? Give them what God gave you**