



AUTHENTIC JESUS

Authentic Forgiveness

[Matthew 6:14-15]

[Supremely] *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.* **Matthew 5:7**

FORGIVENESS 101:

[1] The Playbook [Romans 12:14-21]

[2] The Payoffs [Matthew 6:14-15]

a] May break a cycle of retaliation that leads to mutual reconciliation [Proverbs 16:7]

b] May transform our enemies [2 Cor. 5:17-19]

c] Leads to personal freedom [John 10:10]

[3] The Pursuit [Matt. 18:21-22, Ephesians 4:32]

Pursuing forgiveness is a reflection of God's forgiving heart

Discussion Questions/Prayer

[1] Read Romans 12:14-21. What responsibilities of every believer do we see in these verses? How do these qualities help us overcome evil with good? [ABIDE]

[2] Read Matthew 6:14-15. Read the "payoffs of authentic forgiveness" in the outline. Where have you seen these payoffs when you have forgiven?

[3] Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. What responsibilities do we carry in this *ministry of reconciliation*?

[4] Pray for a renewed commitment to authentic forgiveness only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives every day.

Romans 12:14-21 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Live so that you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip. [Will Rogers]

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Genesis 45:5 . . . now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Joseph is a model of *authentic* forgiveness. He was rejected, kidnapped, enslaved, and imprisoned. Although his brothers had been unfaithful to him, he graciously forgave them and shared his prosperity. Joseph demonstrated how God forgives us and showers us with goodness even though we have sinned against him. The same forgiveness and blessings are ours if we ask for them. [HOBA]