

Sermon Notes

The New Life Part 6: Forgiveness

June 25th – 26th, 2022

- **The New Life**
- Jesus changed the world with two words, “Follow Me.”
 - o We are called out of the old and into the new, to be born again, to live new life in Christ.
- In this series we are looking at what that new life looks like, common experiences on that road.
- **Forgiveness**
- What is the cross all about? **Luke 24:46-47**
 - o Jesus suffered so that people could turn to God and be forgiven. The cross is all about forgiveness.
- We are people of the cross. We celebrate the cross. We gain peace with God from the cross.
 - o We are also required to share that forgiveness with others.
 - At the end of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus says, **Matthew 6:14-15**.
 - That means we freely give as we have freely received.
- But living a life of forgiveness towards others can be challenging. We don’t want to pretend.
- My top 5 lessons to learn about forgiveness:
- 1) God requires us to forgive. (already talked about)
 - o But just because you know that, it doesn’t mean you can just snap your fingers and forgive...
- 2) You can forgive, but you have to fight for it.
 - o One time it took me a year to forgive someone. A year of actively trying.
 - Places like this are where **John 8:31-32** come into play.
 - o What got me out? Sitting at the stoplight story...
- 3) Forgiveness is essential to your healing process.
 - o Harpoon story.
 - o Unforgiveness is like drinking poison expecting your enemy to die. **Ephesians 4:26-27**
 - o Forgiveness is not about ignoring the truth, but about processing truth and moving forward.
 - Forgiveness does not require elimination of boundaries.
- 4) Forgiveness does not let them off the hook.
 - o **Romans 12:9-21**, emphasis on **Romans 12:19**.
 - You can release them from what they owe you, not from what they owe to God.
 - Don’t forget about **Matthew 18:6**.
 - Definitely applies to abusers...but also bad religion. So, yes, that teacher...
- 5) Sometimes you have to take a stand: Know when to turn cheeks and when to turn tables.
 - o Jesus did two things that seem quite contradictory.
 - **Matthew 5:38-39**. Jesus did this during Holy Week in his trials and at the cross.
 - **Mark 11:15-17**. Jesus did this during Holy Week as well.
 - o It can go very badly if we take the wrong tactic. Be wise.
 - What does it take to break the cycle of darkness?
- I want to pray that you can get free from the evil that has been done to you and those you love.
 - o If you don’t, it can dig deeper and deeper into your heart.
 - o Let’s do what we can today to put **Ephesians 4:26-27** in to practice.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.