

CHRISTMAS IS FORGIVING – 3 “For-Getting Forgiveness”

Week number three of “Christmas Is Forgiving”, our first week we looked at forgiving those who have hurt us. Last week we looked at initiating forgiveness, going to those that we’ve hurt and asking forgiveness. This week we are going to look at forgiving ourselves, or moving on beyond the hurt that we’ve experienced in our own lives as we receive forgiveness from God.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. Matthew 1:21-22

It’s All Fun & Games Until Someone Gets Hurt!

Story Of Steve Breackvelt

Yeah, it’s all fun and games until someone gets hurt and in real life, unfortunately, a lot of us have experienced very unexpected pain. Hurt in our lives!

A lot of us carry a lot of pain, a lot of regret, and what we are going to do in our study today is, we are going to look at how to move beyond the pain of yesterday and move into the blessings that God would have for us in today.

HOW TO MOVE FORWARD

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

What we are going to try to do today with God’s help is move from a worldly sorrow to a Godly sorrow, which leads to salvation and new life. In order to do that, we are going to look at an Old Testament story of a guy who had it all going and made a huge mistake. We are going to look at the story of King David, a king chosen by God, anointed by God’s messenger, a king over ... having a great affect, who made a tremendous mistake. What did he do? He had an adulterous affair with Bathsheba. If you know the story, he got her pregnant, then he found himself trapped. “What am I going to do? How am I going to get out of this?”

Those of you who know the story, what happened to the little boy? He got very, very sick, and David’s heart broke for his sick little boy, and what did he do? He sought the Lord. He said for seven days he didn’t eat. He prayed, “God, this isn’t the boy’s fault. It’s my fault. Please spare him,” and on the seventh day, he received the tragic news the little boy died. David carried the guilt, because he knew that he was the guilty one and it affected someone who was innocent. Now the Lord was still working in his life, and David had a choice to make in the middle of his pain. He could let this pain take him out and take him away from God, or he could let God use the hard times to soften his heart and to bring him closer than he ever had been before to his Heavenly Father.

Some of us are continuing the mourning process for something that can never be changed. There’s something that you wish that could change, but it cannot be changed, and we must start afresh. Before we can move forward, we have to start by accepting that it cannot be changed.

1) ACCEPT WHAT CANNOT BE CHANGED.

He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." 2 Samuel 12:22-23

I heard a story about two monks years and years ago, who were traveling together and came up to a very rough river, and there was a lady beside the river who wanted to get across, but she was afraid the river might be too rough for her. The older monk looked on at the younger monk, knowing what he was thinking, a younger monk wanting to help out, and the older monk looked on disapprovingly. “No, you can’t do that. Remember, you cannot let the skin of a woman touch you, or it could cause you to have impure thoughts,” and the younger monk looked on with this hunger to help out, and finally he said, “Ma’am, could I help you across?” And she said, “Would you? Would you? I need help desperately. I’m too afraid,” and so she locked arms with him, and carefully, he led her across, stabilizing the force of the water to make sure she made it to the other side. When they got to the other side, she threw her arms around him and kissed him on the cheek, said, “Thank you, thank you. You saved the day for me!” The other monk looked on with just horror! “I cannot believe you let that happen.” The two monks continued on their journey, walking for miles and miles and hours and hours, and the older monk was too upset to even speak. Finally, after hours and miles of traveling, the older monk said, “I cannot believe you let the skin of a woman touch you,” and the younger monk looked on with a surprised look and said, “I let her go hours ago, but you are still carrying her.”

You know what? There are something’s that God has already forgiven us for, years and years ago, but some of us still carry the pain in our hearts. In order to move forward with God, the first thing that we must do is accept the fact that... ...some things cannot be changed.

2) GIVE IT UP TO GOD.

Whatever is the burden, the guilt, the heaviness, the regret that we are carrying, we must learn to give it over, give it up to God.

Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped... 2 Samuel 12:20

What did he do? The guy got up and he went to church. He turned to the Lord. In the middle of his lowest time, he turned to God, and that’s what we must do, as well. In fact, we can turn to one of three places when we are hurting. There’s only three places.

The first place, if you are taking notes, we can turn inward. “Oh, I can’t believe this happened. Oh, I feel so badly about this. Oh, I’m such a miserable person.”

Second place we can turn is outward. That is, “Would you please validate my existence? Would you please tell me I’m not that bad of a person? Would you please tell me that I’m not as bad as I think that I am?”

Thirdly, we can turn upward. We can turn toward God, and God alone to be our source of strength and peace during times of pain.

I’ve walked through some pretty hard times in my Christian live, there are lots of things, hurts, worries, ect.. But I know that I cannot handle them all and I’ve got to give them to GOD! He alone can take care of them.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Isaiah 6:1

Now, what was he saying? Basically, he was saying, “In the year that our whole world fell apart.” “I saw the Lord.”

Some who are here today need to embrace the fact that the past is not going to change, and we must take our burden, our heaviness, our guilt, our regret and learn to give it over to God.

3) FOCUS ON WHAT IS LEFT, NOT LOST.

Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him. 2 Samuel 12:24

What did God do? God didn't change the past, but God brought something new.

Our spiritual enemy wants us to look back, to look back and to live in the pain of the past.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

The past cannot be changed, but the meaning of the past can be changed. We can never change what happened, but God can change the meaning of the past, if we will allow Him.

How many football fans do we have? Football fans, any football fans at all? Ah, I've been watching games this week? Yes, 1929. Rose Bowl. University of Georgia against California. Roy Regals, those of you who study, played the game, made an amazing hit. At almost halftime, hit a guy, forced the fumble. Regals picked up the ball, and a little bit disoriented in the hit, rather than running to score a touchdown for his team, what did he do? He ran the wrong stinking way as fast as he could. Rather than running toward his end zone, he was running the other way. The coach is screaming, "Somebody stop him." The other team, they "Go Regals. Go Regals. Go, Re ...". Running as fast as he could toward the end zone, when finally, after sixty-five negative yards, one of his own teammates grabbed him from behind, pulled him back down at the two-yard line. His horrible playing ended up leading to a score for the opposing team. He went into half-time totally defeated. Sitting down in the corner of the locker room, crying his eyes out, humiliating himself, his coach, his team, his university, the laughing stock of the football world. And at the end of the half time, the coach shocked everybody, and he said, "All of you who started the first half, back on the field to start the second half. Well, Regals had started the first half," and everybody else piled out on the field except Regals, who sat in the corner crying. The coach walked up and said, "Regals, didn't you hear what I told you? Everyone who started the first half ... did you start the first half? "Y-y-y-e-a-h." He said, everyone who started the first half, back on the field!" Regals looked up with his helmet on, face buried, just numb from tears. He said, "Coach, I can never go back out there. I'm the laughing stock of football. I'm embarrassed. I'm going to lose the game for us." The coach reached down and grabbed him by the face mask, pulled him up and looked him in the eye and said, "Regals, you are my player. You made a mistake. You are forgiven. Now, get out there and win the game!"

Those who saw the game, to this day will tell you, "Roy Regals played like a man possessed on a mission and helped lead his team to a substantial victory." Why did he do that? What was the change from one moment of defeat to moments later, victory? What was the change? Where did it come from? It came from two things. The first thing it came from was forgiveness. He was forgiven. The second thing that it came from is, it came from a second chance. Forgiveness and a second chance. Forgiveness and a second chance.

Why did Jesus come? Give him the name Jesus, the Lord saves, which means He will save His people from their sins. Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to what? To save it. To save it.

As a new year approaches, grab it with a spiritual new birth of the risen Christ, who says, "I forgive, and I give second chances. I forgive and I give second chances," and when you realize that you've got a chance to play another half, and you can still win by bringing glory to God, then you will play with passion and fire in your eyes.

Screwed up in the past? Oh, join the stinking club. Godly sorrow leads to life. Worldly sorrow leads to death.

Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife... Matthew 1:6

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. Matthew 1:21-22