

Forgiveness

“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Matthew 18:21

- Let's gain perspective before we hear Jesus' answer. How did He respond when wronged?

Jesus --“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

- How many of you have ever been wronged?

I. CATEGORY ONE GUT-LEVEL WRONGDOING

Speed bump; minor irritations; idiosyncrasies; normal little frictions in Relationships

What do you do when you're hit by a category one?

- Corinthians 13:5: *“Love... it is not easily angered (offended), it keeps no record of wrongs.”*
- Ephesians 4:32: *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*
- *“Father, forgive me for I know not what I do.”*
- Fill your heart with the kindness and graciousness of God on a daily basis; then easily forgive, quickly forget the tiny little injustices and bumps in the road, and get on with life.

II. CATEGORY TWO HEART-LEVEL WRONGDOING (DRS. CLOUD AND TOWNSEND, _____)

Betrayal; abandonment; maligned or slandered

What do you do when you're hit by a category two?

- Jesus --*“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*
- Matthew 18:15, *“If your brother or sister sins go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”* (Go! Private! Spirit of reconciliation!)
- Matthew 5:23-24; Go now!
- Romans 12:18: *“So far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all people.”*

III. CATEGORY THREE SOUL-LEVEL WRONGDOING (ADAM HAMILTON, _____)

Dreadful loss; injustice; abuse; persecution; life-shattering event; the unthinkable; unforgettable

What do you do when you're hit by a category three?

- Jesus --*“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*
- Heart transplant
- Supernatural power needed to come to that point where you say in all sincerity: *Father, forgive them. Father, I release my right to try to extract revenge. I release all that. Forgive them, for they know not what they do.*

JESUS' ANSWER TO PETER'S QUESTION:

IV. Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times.”

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