Our Forgiving God

Greg Kline · Judges 2:10–19

INTRODUCTION

- Our God showed faithfulness to an unfaithful people. He showed forgiveness to a stubborn and rebellious people. Our God is a forgiving God.
- Will God really forgive his children who struggle with sin? I've certainly struggled with the question, perhaps you have as well.
- This is not a lesson about saying, just go ahead and do whatever you want, say some magic words at night, and God will forgive you.

1 The People in the Judges Cried Out

Judges 3:7–11

- And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.
- But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel who saved them.
- This text is not just a referendum on sin, which it is, not just a referendum on violating God's will, which it stands firmly as, but also as a beacon of our God's willingness to forgive anybody.

2 Manasseh, One of the Worst Kings of Judah

2 Chronicles 33:1–13

- Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.
- He prayed to his God, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea, and brought him again to Jerusalem and to his kingdom.
- He changes, he tears out the altars. He does what he can to undo his wrong and to serve God. It's a powerful picture of repentance.

3 Saul, a Religious Terrorist Forgiven

Acts 8:1–3; Acts 9:4–6; Acts 22:16

- But Saul was ravaging the church and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.
- Rise and wash away your sins, being baptized, calling on the name of Jesus.
- If Saul could be forgiven, whether through baptism or whether Manasseh could be forgiven through a prayer of repentance.
- God expects us to trust him and have faith in him on the basis of what he has already done.

4 Some Conditions to That Forgiveness

1 John 1:8–9

- First of all, I have to know that God will forgive. But then I have to consider that there are some conditions to that forgiveness.
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful. He is just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- But it means I have a faith problem. Because my faith has to be strong enough to know that my God is faithful.
- We will not be forgiven because we are perfect. We will be forgiven because we have a perfectly loving and forgiving God.

5 By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith

Ephesians 2:1–10; 1 John 1:8

- By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- What does faith do in Hebrews chapter 11? It made Abel offer, it made Noah build, it made Abraham go. Faith works.
- The passage very clearly means that we cannot earn our salvation.
- God will forgive because God is faithful, because God has promised and he always delivers on his promises.

6 A Covenant Enacted on Better Promises

Hebrews 8:6–13

- God was faithful to the old covenant. He was faithful to his people.
- Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old, as the covenant, he mediates is better. Why? Since it is enacted on better promises.
- I will be merciful towards their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

THE CHALLENGE

Will God really forgive people who are stubborn, who are obstinate to his ways, and who struggle with sin? Yes. If we confess our sins, if we walk in his ways, our God's grace is far greater than all of our sin.

MY NOTES