The Forgiveness Revelation

Dan Lankford · Mark 2:1–12

INTRODUCTION

- There have only been a handful of innovations and inventions that have truly changed the world.
- I think the same thing happened when Jesus introduced in a new kind of way God's particular brand of forgiveness into the world. Because it is literally a world-shaping idea.
- It has the power to heal broken marriages, it has the power to reconcile siblings that are at odds with each other.

1 Forgiveness Justifies the Sinner, Not the Sin

Mark 2:5; Romans 6:1–2

- What forgiveness does is it justifies the sinner, not the sin.
- Jesus is not going to change the nature of sin. He doesn't change the wrongness of it. But he can change the consequences of it.
- It's really important that we as God's people understand that grace is never an excuse for sin.
- Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means.

2 Forgiveness Releases

Mark 2:11–12

- One of the original language words for forgive in the New Testament is the same word that was used in Old Testament language to talk about releasing slaves, or releasing a debt.
- He is released from the power and from the captivity of his sin.
- This man is released from his own sins, from their power, and from the power of sin in general.
- It will help us to release any grudges that we may be tempted to continue to carry.

3 Forgiveness Reconciles Rather Than Vindicates

Matthew 18:15

- Forgiveness has the ability to reconcile rather than to vindicate.
- It's not that we would win the day. Our purpose is to win the person.
- It's a super important lesson for us to learn biblically that forgiveness forfeits the moral high ground.
- Forgiveness is not interested in winning over somebody. Forgiveness is interested in winning somebody.
- If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault between you and him alone. And if he listens to you have gained your brother.

4 Forgiveness Is Active

Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14–15

- As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive others.
- If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours.
- So when someone says I'm sorry, the answer is, I forgive you.
- Sometimes the best thing you can say in prayer is, God, thank you for the forgiveness of our sins that you have given.
- Don't work to win, work to mend. Work to fix relationships, not to win arguments.

5 Forgiveness Welcomes the Forgiven Into Fellowship

- Forgiveness welcomes the forgiven people into fellowship with us.
- It doesn't take much to realize the entire reason for the church is forgiveness.
- We better make sure that we are open to fellowship with everyone whom God has forgiven.
- The world needs to hear Christians call sin wrong. The world needs to hear Christians offer forgiveness in Jesus. And the world needs to hear Christians welcome all forgiven people into our fellowship.
- We've got to make sure, brothers and sisters, we've got the doors wide open for forgiven people to be part of our family in Christ too.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Do you want to be forgiven by God? It will not make what you have done right. He will still ask you to turn away from sin in your life.**

MY NOTES