

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How do you forgive someone who hasn't apologized? Or...what happens if someone hurt you and they aren't around to apologize for it?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

Read Genesis 25:19-34

2. There's a story in the bible between twin brothers who needed to forgive each other. Please. What are your initial thoughts?
3. Who was wrong, who was right? Why?
4. Jacob reaches out to Esau for the first time. According to Genesis 32:6-8, what did he think about Esau?
5. The story shifts to matters of the heart. What does Jesus say about the heart in Mark 7:20-23? Compare with Proverbs 4:23. What should be our priority?
6. Have you ever heard an insincere apology? How do you know it was insincere?
7. One woman who had been hurt expressed her feelings like this, "My dad left our family when I was in elementary school. The pain caused by his abandonment ran deep. The hurt remained unresolved as I waited for this man to return to my life and apologize for wrecking it. I thought my anger was my power. My ability to never forget was going to ensure I would never get hurt again. It was how I protected my heart. That anger bled over into my other relationships. I became angry in general, always blaming it on my dad. If he would just admit he was wrong, my life would be better."

What can we learn from her processing? Compare with Ephesians 4:26-27.

8. What are your thoughts about this quote? "Forgiveness really is making the determination that you have suffered long enough. You are unhitching your ability to heal from the choices of that other person." (Lysa Terkeurst)

9. According to Micah 7:18 and Luke 23:34, what kind of God do we have?

Compare your response with 1 Peter 3:8-9.

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- A bitter heart can be passed on to the next generation.
- Chris Brauns said, "The forgiveness choices you make will shape much of your life."
- Just because you can't feel God, doesn't mean He isn't present.
- The person who hurt you needs the grace of God as much as you do.
- Managing your heart is more important than managing your budget.
- The path of God's blessings is through reconciliation.