

SHOES - Part 5
"Flip Flop Forgiveness"
Pastor Bill Bush
July 12, 2009

THE BIG IDEA:
The final step in conflict resolution
is to FORGIVE!

Matthew 18:21-35

If Forgiveness Is So Important Then What Stops Us?

4 Common Barriers

- Self-Deception
- Self-Defense
- Self-Image
- Self-Protection

What Forgiveness is NOT

- It is not a FEELING
- It is not FORGETTING
- It is not EXCUSING

What Forgiveness IS:

A decision to release someone from liability to suffer punishment or penalty, modeled after God's forgiveness of us.

- Reconciliation takes TWO but forgiveness takes ONE!

"It Is Finished"- Jesus on the cross

Is it?

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

ENTRY POINT: We need daily forgiveness just as we need daily bread.

Read **Matthew 6:1-15** and meditate on what the familiar words in verses 9-15 really mean to you regarding forgiveness.

It is God's will that we forgive others. The Lord's prayer says "Forgive us our sins **as** we forgive those who have sinned against us." Knowing that the word "as" is defined as "to the same extent or degree," what does this passage say to you?

Forgiveness is not *feeling, forgetting, or excusing*, but a choice – it is an act of will! Whether they were intentional or unintentional we must put another's wrongs behind us. When have you made a choice to forgive someone? How did that change **you**?

God is merciful and just! Many times we want *mercy* for our sins, but *justice* for the wrong someone else has done, especially when that wrong has been done to us. Keeping a record of wrongs is not forgiveness. How is God's forgiveness for us often different than our own for others?

It is by God's grace that we are forgiven. It is also by God's grace that we are able to forgive. But grace isn't grace if we have to be "good enough" for it to apply to us. Why is it so hard to apply this truth when others seek our forgiveness?

*"If you forgive those who sin against you,
your Heavenly Father will forgive you.
But if you refuse to forgive others,
Your Father will not forgive your sins."*

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)