

# Forgiveness- The Hardest Thing In Life

David Kretz- May 29, 2022

## 1. We have **ALL SINNED** and need **FORGIVENESS**.

*He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

*(John 1:10-11 New International Version)*

*That is what my heavenly father will do to you, if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.*

*(Matthew 18:35, New Living Translation)*

## 2. We must remember that **RECONCILIATION** and **FORGIVENESS** are not the same thing.

- Reconciliation, **THE RESTORING** of a relationship, requires two people, but forgiveness requires only one.

*So if you are bringing gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and first go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift.*

*(Matthew 5:24, NLT)*

*'Vengeance is mine. I will repay.'*

*(Hebrews 10:30, English Standard Version)*

*I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.*

*(Joel 2:25-26, NIV)*

## 3. We should always try to be **EASY TO FORGIVE**.

*Among all parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole world on fire.... People can tame all kinds of birds, reptiles and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

*(James 3:6-8, NLT)*

*Don't you see that.... whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.*

*(Matthew 15:17-19, NLT)*

*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

*(Proverbs 15:1, NIV)*

## 4. It is sometimes through **SUFFERING** that our greatest blessings can be revealed.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

*(Romans 8:28, NIV)*

*But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are.*

*(1 Corinthians 1:27-28, NIV)*

*Do you see all of these great buildings? .... Not one stone here will be left upon another; every one will be thrown down.*

*(Mark 13:2 NIV)*