

FORGIVENESS

By Brock Gorman

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1. Hector Black Testimony
Warning: There are a couple parts to this gentle man's testimony that are rough, but show the depth of true forgiveness.

2. John 20:23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
 - When we sin, we put a block in our connection with God. Repentance is necessary, but when we wrong others, their forgiveness towards us carries a pivotal part in God's forgiveness. I'm sure Ivan Simpson had asked for forgiveness countless times, but until Hector forgave him Ivan did not sense God's forgiveness and touch.

3. Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."
 - Example: Grandma's birthday party offence.
 - Lets put this in other words. If bitterness flows in your heart how can you distinguish God's perfect peace and love?

4. Brock's personal struggle with forgiveness:
 - My calling to youth ministry and the brokenness of unhealthy leadership.
 - My call to youth ministry.
 - Master in Youth Ministry.
 - Years pouring out my heart towards teens and their families.
 - 2 back to back leadership teams that derailed my trust and confidence about serving.

- Bitterness had my heart for a couple years until I forgave. The Father showed me his son on the cross. I looked into His eyes and realized, “Who am I to hold offence when my sins put Jesus willingly on the cross”. I walked away releasing those who wronged me and felt a burden lift.
5. A good indicator of healing is when you think of those who wronged you in the past, but now you don't feel anger towards them. The next step closer to the kingdom is that you willingly bless them. This is a good sign of healing.
 6. Clips from “The Passion of Christ” – Mel Gibson
 - Repeatedly we see Jesus forgiving, forgiving and forgiving.
 - Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
 7. Why is forgiveness so vital in our walk in understanding Jesus' sacrifice?
 - “If we do not forgive, we cannot be forgiven.” Truly this can be a devastatingly demanding aspect to our faith, yet ultimately vital. Without this step we walk in darkness, not seeing the kingdom of God nor experiencing its freedom. Hector said, “Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die’?”

Further Suggested Reading about a concentration camp story of forgiveness by Chuck Colson

A Russian Doctor

<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/issues/issues-v04-n07/a-russian-doctor/>

Bless others and be blessed - Brock