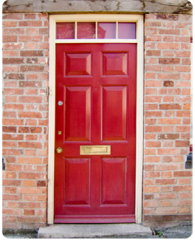


July 31 & August 1, 2010



3 D O O R S FORGIVENESS

Aaron Thomas, son of the late Coach Ed Thomas,
John Fuller, Senior Pastor

Introduction

God forgives. Nothing from our past, present, or future is left untouched by God's grace. We are given the gift of grace when we haven't earned it. And as Christians we get to extend grace to those around us. At the worship services this weekend, Aaron Thomas told a moving story about how forgiveness inspired his family when crisis and pain unexpectedly struck. If you were at Prairie Lakes Church this weekend, spend a few minutes discussing what you learned about forgiveness. When you've finished, move on to the discussion section.

Discussion

If all of your financial debt was canceled, what would be the first thing you would do?

As a group, read [Matthew 18:21-35](#). (Note: 1000 talents=millions of dollars, 100 denarii =a few dollars.) How does the parable (vs. 23-35) further explain Jesus' teaching on forgiveness in verses 21-22?

What did the servant miss out on by refusing to forgive his fellow servant?

Tell about a time when someone forgave you. What was it like to be on the receiving end of forgiveness?

Have you forgiven someone? What did forgiveness do in your own heart?

Think about it

E. Stanley Jones was a missionary in India in the early 20th century. He tells this story about forgiveness:

"I am reminded of one of our group, a government official, who harbored resentment against a subordinate. A wrong had been done, and the resentment was deep. It was not easy to confess that resentment to a subordinate- not in India, where rank counts for much.

"But it was done. Release was found, and now that man's life is radiant and spiritually contagious. You can do the same. By His grace, you will, won't you?"

Like the government official, resentment can slowly creep into our hearts without our being aware. In the end, it stifles our physical, mental, and spiritual life. Is resentment keeping your life from being radiant and spiritually contagious? Do you need to forgive someone? A friend? A relative? Maybe yourself? How can you forgive, yet not encourage, irresponsibility?

Do something

Celebrate God's forgiveness this week by memorizing Romans 5:8-11. Write the verses on a card and keep it with you throughout the week.

Begin mending a wounded relationship. Start with prayer and forgiveness.

If you didn't make it to a worship service at Prairie Lakes Church this weekend, take a few minutes and watch the message online:

prairielakeschurch.org