

Study Notes – Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness

1. Reflect back on the reactions to Martin McGuinness' death – Norman Tebbit's 'rot in Hell' was one extreme, many seem to have forgiven his terrorist past and hailed him as a peacemaker. Where do your sympathies most naturally lie?
2. 'God knows it will take a miracle to forgive.' What factors come into play when we experience personal hurt? When might it be harder or easier to forgive?
3. Consider the implications of unforgiveness. Firstly in the Lord's prayer Matthew 6:12 and Jesus' comment sin v14-15. Read also Mark 11:25. How does this square with 1 John 1 :9.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 a passage used in Freedom in Christ. What dirty tricks is Satan up to? how do you respond to the implication that unforgiveness can give Satan a foothold in our lives?
5. Consider the paradox of forgiveness – the greater beneficiary is the one who forgives. Do you agree that to be set free from the continuing sore of unforgiveness, the person you forgive need neither be present or aware that you are forgiving them?
6. In what circumstances would it be helpful to speak to the person who has hurt us?
7. Consider Jesus parable. What is the application for us?
8. How do we ensure that we are really forgiving our brother or sister from the heart and not just going through the motions?

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