

June 25, 2017

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Sermon Series--Paradigm Shift
"Forgiveness"
Matthew 18

*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven."
Matthew 18:21-22*

The world teaches forgiveness--it's for your benefit!
The Bible teaches forgiveness--it's for the benefit of others!

Three Steps to Forgiveness:

Step 1: Attempt reconciliation (verses 15-16)

- privately
- with witnesses

Step 2: Discipline (verses 17-18)

- let the church help
- leave it in God's hands

Step 3: Keep praying (verses 19-20)

- for the offender to find repentance
- for you to have mercy
- for Christ to be glorified through even a difficult situation
- for faith to trust in God's plan

Jesus sets a new paradigm for forgiveness (verses 21-22)

Consider Joseph, from Genesis 37. He did not have the option to attempt reconciliation or to effect discipline of his brothers. All he could do was PRAY for his offenders, PRAY for himself, PRAY for God's plan to be revealed, and he did all this without the revelation of Jesus.