

MARINERS CHURCH



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Hey Future Me, forgive as He forgave you

Hey Future Me, forgive & forgive & forgive & forgive & forgive

- it's truly the only weapon we have as Jesus-followers
- don't allow abuse to continue, please seek help
- don't allow bitterness to fester, please seek help
- don't allow unforgiveness to control you, please seek help

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free & discover that the prisoner was you"

- Lewes B. Smedes



Hey, Future Me: Unforgiveness is Dangerous!

1/15/2023

For some reason God has made it so that my life comes together in all ways when I grasp the truths of the Bible & it is a vital part of my life.

"If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, & you will know the Truth, & the Truth will set you free." Jesus, John 8:31, 32

"Grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him **more money than he could EVER repay**. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him **about \$4000**, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you **an amount you could NEVER repay me** because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." Jesus, Matthew 18:23-35

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

Unforgiveness is dangerous spiritually because it stunts my growth in God

Unforgiveness is dangerous emotionally & mentally because it steals my joy

Unforgiveness is dangerous physically because it affects my health

Hey Future Me, remember God forgave you a debt you couldn't repay

For your LifeGroup and growth time.

Do you have any quotes that make you go "mmmm" like the ones Curt used to start the message?

Take a moment to reflect on this statement: Whatever I spend my time doing during the day is what I'll see in my sleep. If all my input comes from culture & not from God who/what will I act like? Who/what will I sound like?

Using this quote, how does unforgiveness effect your sleep? If you hold on to unforgiveness in your heart, who will you mimic? Who will you sound like? Are those actions worthy of the mercy you have found in Jesus?

Read Matthew 18:23-25. Take a look at this story Jesus told through the eyes of each character (King, 1st servant who is forgiven, 2nd servant who isn't forgiven). For each person consider these questions:

- how do they reflect the heart of God?
- how do they reflect the condition of the world?
- what mistakes did they make?
- how could they improve their responses?

This story does not address the gaining or losing of a person's salvation, rather it shows how our relationship with God is affected when we choose not to forgive. How have you been affected by unforgiveness? What consequences did it have on your relationship with God & others?

Using today's message as an outline, how would you write a letter to your Future Me regarding unforgiveness?

As a group pray for each other to truly reflect the heart of God & forgive like He has forgiven.

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)