

Written in Red: Hard Things Jesus Said

You Have to Forgive

Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction

Why forgiving is so hard for us

- Forgiveness doesn't seem fair
- We don't want to let go of hurt, anger, revenge
- They don't deserve forgiveness
- Afraid we will be enabling bad behavior
- Hardest to forgive people we love

What forgiving is not

- Excusing
- Denying
- Pretending
- Forgetting
- Reasonable
- Easy
- Reconciling
- Trusting
- Perfect

What forgiving is

- Deciding
- Leaving convicting, judging, avenging to God
- Letting go of our hurt

Cultivating Forgiveness

- Remembering our debts have been forgiven
- Being changed by grace we have received
- Living like Jesus

Personal Response

If we really believe what Jesus said about our forgiveness being tied to how we forgive others, ask yourself this question: Based on the way I forgive people who hurt me, how forgiven am I by God who I have offended?

Next Week: *Whatever it takes to fight temptation*
Matthew 5:27-30