

SERMON SUMMARY: Part of being human means that we will be hurt. Sin has caused disfunction in our relationships that can only be mended by the grace of God and the proper application of forgiveness. In this message, we will look at a biblical narrative of two family members being reconciled in Genesis 33 and unpack biblical forgiveness and how we can model it in our own lives.

Read Genesis 33:1-9, Luke 17:3, and 1 Peter 4:8, and Ephesians 4:32 and ask God what He has in store for you to learn from these verses.

Forgiveness isn't easy. - Genesis 25, 27

- A simple question yet a difficult task: Why is forgiving somebody else so hard?
- Another simple question and yet another difficult task: Why is asking for forgiveness from somebody else so hard?
- What's more difficult for you: forgiving others or asking for forgiveness? Why?
- Who had the more difficult task: Jacob or Esau? Why?
- Have you given or received "false forgiveness"? What did that look like?

Forgiveness must be sought for blatant sin. – Genesis 33:1-3, Luke 17:3

- How is a lack of forgiveness concerning someone else's sin or failing to confess your own sin affecting your relationships with others? How is it affecting your relationship with God?
- How could you extending forgiveness heal a relationship? How might it heal the other person? How might it heal you? How might it heal your relationship with God?

Forgiveness brings release. Genesis 33:4-10, 1 Peter 4:8

- There is a saying, "Unforgiveness is like you drinking poison and hoping it effects the person who sinned against you that you need to forgive." In what way is this saying true? Have you ever experienced this before? What is the source of that poison?
- How does 1 Peter 4:8 speak into that saying and the actions of that saying?
- Practice: What practical steps should we take when someone sins against us to make sure we can really forgive them?
- What is the relationship between love and forgiveness?

Forgiveness is fundamental for a Christ-follower. – Genesis 33:11, Ephesians 4:32

- Packs small, plays big: Why is the small word "as" so critical in Ephesians 4:32.
- Is forgiveness ever optional for a Christ-follower?
- Can unforgiveness effect our prayers? (Mark 11:25)

Apply:

- 1) Who in your life do you need to forgive? Who do you need to seek forgiveness from? Make a plan, share with somebody to hold you accountable.
- 2) Memorize Ephesians 4:31-32