

ties said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith." ⁶ The Lord answered, "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and thrown into the sea,' and it would obey you!" ⁷ "When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, 'Come in and eat with me'?" ⁸ No, he says, 'Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.' ⁹ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. ¹⁰ In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.' "

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT) ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Psalms 86:5 (NLT) ⁵ O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.

Psalms 103:8-12 (NLT) ⁸ The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. ⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. ¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. ¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

Psalms 130:3-4 (NLT) ³ Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? ⁴ But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.

Hebrews 10:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

1 John 1:9 (NLT) ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Exodus 34:5-7 (NLT) ⁵ Then the Lord came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. ⁶ The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations."

Romans 12:17-21 (NLT) ¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. ²⁰ Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

3) We should view forgiveness as a _____ and not a feeling.

Biblical Forgiveness is like giving a gift to someone. It is something you do. It is not a process and it is not a feeling.

When you forgive someone...

- You are choosing to not give them what they deserve or treat them like they deserve to be treated.
- You are choosing to not bring up the wrong or sin again to them.
- You are choosing to act in a loving way toward them by not being ignorant or hateful when you are around them.
- You are choosing to not tell others (gossip) about what happened.
- You are choosing to move forward in the relationship instead of focusing on the past sin or wrong that was committed against you.

It is possible to forgive someone and still struggle with your feelings toward them.

4) Forgiving others does not necessarily mean the _____ for the wrong done.

- See Exodus 34:5-7 and Romans 12:17-21

5) Focusing on _____ of our sins instead of on whether the person who wronged us deserves it or not is the key to forgiveness.

- See Matthew 18:21-35

It comes down to this:

"I will choose to forgive _____ because God has chosen to forgive me."

What do you need to do in response to today's message?

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org