

THE ORIGINAL JOE

PART 5: LET IT GO

Sermon Notes

Text: Genesis 50:15-21

Introduction: Genesis 42-45

The Run Around

Joseph's brothers' 1st journey - a test of honesty

Joseph's brothers' 2nd journey - the framing of Benjamin

The reveal and forgiveness

1. God Alone is Judge

God alone is just. Therefore, God alone is the only perfectly fair judge.

Whether someone "deserves" to be forgiven was not our call to make.

Romans 12:19 - "It is mine to avenge..."

"The difference between this situation [when we are hurt by another] and the one in such you are asking God's forgiveness is this. In our own case we accept excuses too easily; in other people's we do not accept them easily enough." - C.S. Lewis

2. God Alone is Sovereign

Romans 8:28

God alone is in control of your life. Don't give that power to someone else.

Forgiveness isn't forgetting. Forgiveness can only come at great personal cost.

Ways we punish others:

- 1) *Revenge*
- 2) *Spread rumours*
- 3) *Avoidance*

A healthier alternative - Matthew 5:21-26

3. God Forgives & We Need to Follow His Example

Luke 23:24 - "Forgive them for they know not what they do."

To be a follower of Jesus is to forgive.

"To excuse what can really produce good excuses is not Christian character; it is only fairness. To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - C.S. Lewis

Conclusion:

"Let it go". continually give your unforgiving attitude to God and let him transform your heart.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you ever had a hard time letting go of a grudge or forgiving an offence? How did you respond to the offence? If you are comfortable, share your story.

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 6:12-15. What stands out to you? What is our motivation to forgive? Read vs. 15 again; Is Jesus being literal?
2. Read Matthew 5:43-48. What does this passage tell us about forgiveness? What practical step(s) does Jesus give us to forgive others? Read vs. 46 again; What is the difference between fairness and forgiveness?
3. Read Matthew 5:23-26. Why is it important to have crucial conversations when we have been hurt/offended?

Application:

1. Read Matthew 18:21-22. It is clear that we are called to continually forgive the same person. Forgiveness is usually a process of letting go of the emotions of anger and hurt. In your group discuss practical ways to make continually forgiving others easier.

Prayer:

1. Pray for the strength to forgive as God forgave us.
2. Other requests
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