

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups May 20th 2007

Deeper into prayer – with Jesus

....for forgiveness Luke 23:26 -49



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Forgiveness – It don't come easy

Forgiveness is the mental, emotional and spiritual process of ceasing to feel resentment indignation or anger against another person for a perceived offence, difference or mistake, or ceasing to demand punishment or restitution

Coping with the impact of defeats and failures, with mistakes and malice whether through ignorance, selfishness, or violence ... don't come easy!

Forgiveness – Christ's prayer and pattern

He looks only to his Father. He sees only the injury and hurt of others

He lays aside his own innocence. He includes all

He gives us his mercy and his mandate

So what was really going on here?

"For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors" Isaiah 53:12

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted,

Nor threatened revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God,

who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.

By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd the Guardian of your souls. 1 Peter 2 :22- 25

Forgiveness– Some pointers

An imperative Luke 6: 37

An implication Matt 6:14

A warning 2 Cor 2: 11

A full recipe Eph 4 31-32

Forgiveness – our response

Flee, Fight or Forgive?

Deny, Demand or Determine?

Lock up, let loose or Let go?



Witness: questions to discuss

1. How would you define forgiveness?
2. Why is it so often a big deal ...Why does it not come easy to us?
3. What strikes you most about Jesus' prayer on the cross?
4. What do think are the main implications of Jesus' prayer?
5. If we simply forgive ... Does that not just let everybody of the hook?
6. Can you think of a situation in your life when offering forgiveness seems more like allowing ourselves to be "walked- all over?"
7. How do you deal with forgiveness ? (Do you flee or fight? Do you live in denial or make demands for recompense, or do you lock it all up etc?)
8. Spend time as a group in quiet to reflect- Asking the spirit of Jesus' pattern of forgiveness to release you into a new place and a new release.