

BREAKING THE CODE

Part 3: Forgiveness

THE THING ABOUT FORGIVENESS

A. Forgiveness facts

1. It is a challenge - not automatic or always easy
2. It is a big part of our Christian life - no one is exempt
3. Often misunderstood or underestimated

B. Forgiveness impacts three areas of our lives *(Matthew 6:9-12 NLT)*

1. Our relationship with God
2. Our relationship with others
3. Our internal well being

JESUS TALKS ABOUT FORGIVENESS *(Luke 7:41-48 NLT)*

A. Jesus tells a story

1. Contrasting men with two different levels of debt - but neither could pay
2. Both debts were forgiven - due to the kindness
3. An obvious answer to who would love more

B. Jesus contrasts two levels of love and respect

1. The Pharisee showed very little common courtesy
2. The woman showed an uncommon love and respect for Jesus
3. An obvious conclusion

BREAKING THE FORGIVENESS CODE

A. Place a high value on God's forgiveness

1. So many do not consider themselves in need of forgiveness
2. We will not stand before the court of society *(Acts 10:42-43 NLT)*
3. When we realize we have been forgiven much our love increases

B. Receive God's forgiveness for falling short *(1 John 1:9 NKJ)*

1. When we confess to God our sins
2. We receive His forgiveness by faith - feelings follow

C. Extend forgiveness to others *(Colossians 3:13 NLT)*

1. Forgiven people can forgive - we have the capacity
2. What forgiveness is not...
3. What forgiveness is - a choice

D. Forgive yourself *(Acts 10:15 NLT)*

1. If God has forgiven you, then you can forgive yourself
2. Stop talking about and replaying what you did