



Gary Inrig – The Parables (Understanding what Jesus Meant)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Struck You – “Strange, New or Different”.

Week 4 – Read Chapter Four: “Forgiving My Brother” & Read Matthew 18:21-35 (The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

Overview: This chapter explores the importance of forgiveness in the Christian life, emphasizing that our ability to forgive others is directly connected to our understanding and acceptance of God's forgiveness toward us. Though it's easy to say – “I forgive you” – it's not so “easy to walk out”. Gary explores the challenges of forgiveness, the consequences of harboring unforgiveness, and the power of God's grace that enables us as believers to forgive even in the most difficult circumstances. He emphasizes that forgiveness is not optional for Christians but a fundamental aspect of living out the gospel.

SOME KEY POINTS:

- ❖ **Forgiveness deals with real sin, not just minor offenses**
- ❖ **The act of forgiving is a choice, not dependent on emotions**
- ❖ **Refusing to forgive leads to spiritual and emotional bondage**
- ❖ **God's forgiveness of us is the model and motivation for forgiving others**
- ❖ **Forgiveness is an ongoing process, often requiring repeated choices to let go**
- ❖ **The ability to forgive comes from God's grace and the indwelling Holy Spirit**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What struck you – “strange/new or different? Or ... What stood out to you most? Why?

2. Gary - mentions that forgiveness deals with "real sin, with the inexcusable, the unforgettable, and the unacceptable." Can you think of a time when you had to forgive something that felt unforgivable? How did you go about it?



3. How does understanding the enormity of our debt to God (illustrated by the 10,000 talents in the parable) affect your view on forgiving others? (Keeping in mind that - One (1) talent is equal to about 20 years of wages -so 10,000 talents would be around – \$6.24 Billion Dollars (@\$15/hr.) vs. the debts we owe our fellow servants - 100 denarii, or 100 days' wages – round about - \$12,000 (@\$15/hr)

4. Gary states that - "Forgiveness is a servant of the will, not a prisoner of the emotions." - What do you think this means?

3. How can we choose to forgive even when we don't feel like it?

4. Discuss the statement: "When I choose to receive forgiveness, I obligate myself to practice forgiveness." How does this challenge you?

5. The book mentions the "torture chamber of an unforgiving spirit." Have you experienced or seen the negative effects of unforgiveness in your life or others'?



Things to Think On this Week-

1. Reflect on God's forgiveness: Spend time this week meditating on the extent of God's forgiveness towards you. How might this motivate you to forgive others?
2. Forgiveness inventory: Make a list of people you may need to forgive. Pray over this list, asking God for the strength to let go of resentment.
3. Practice "letting go": When negative thoughts about past hurts arise, consciously choose to release them to God. You may need to do this repeatedly.
4. Seek accountability: Share with a trusted friend, group member or pastor about a situation where you're struggling to forgive. Ask them to pray for you and check in on your progress.
5. Extend grace: Look for an opportunity this week to show kindness or compassion to someone who has wronged you, even in a small way.

Closing Prayer: *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please feel free and be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads)*

Thank You Lord for Your forgiveness – and we ask for Your help in becoming more forgiving towards others. Lord remind us that forgiveness is a choice – and that while it may cost us something– Lord Your forgiveness cost You everything – help us to see and forgive others as You do and remind us that the true path to peace is through the forest of forgiveness. In Jesus name we pray – amen!