

Pray About It: The Individual and Collective Impact of Un-Forgiveness (Forgiveness)

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Prayer

God deal with our hearts and center our commitment to forgive regardless. Move us to trust you to manage others as we manage ourselves and put your first. AMEN.

Scripture

Matthew 6:14-15

Context

People will sin against you. To this, the scripture leaves no question. More important is how you respond. You are responsible for you, not others. Your management of your response carries consequences for your relationship with God. How important is being in right relationship with God? What are you willing to let go or get over? How much do we value God's forgiveness? The choice is yours.

Exegesis

Jesus is in the middle of his sermon on the mount, distributing much of the integral and uninterrupted and foundational philosophy associated with the behavior of those who will follow him. This is the close of Jesus's teaching on prayer. There is a connection between prayer and forgiveness. Jesus clearly articulates how God responds to the follower who does not forgive.

Conversation

This text seems to be a conversation with the individual. It implies that God has an expectation of the believer individually. This means God has and desires an individual relationship with every believer. This means you can't blame lack of forgiveness on anyone else. It also implies that you can't expect anyone to forgive on your behalf. You must be willing to confront lack of forgiveness within for yourself. It also implies that prayer is a safe place to have this confrontation with your lack of forgiveness. Seemingly, the un-forgiveness (and even sin) of others is not the topic of discussion. In conversation with God is the place where you can admit you have un-forgiveness and commit to forgive once again. You can also demonstrate how important it is to have God's forgiveness in your own life.

Questions

1. What would the world/your community if people chose to deal with their own forgiveness?
2. How has the lack of forgiveness impacted our life personally? Your family?
3. Why does Jesus place the responsibility on the individual to forgive?
4. Why do you believe Jesus associated forgiveness with prayer?