

How does the Atonement Change How we Live?

April 28, 2013

Notes

Countdown- “Forgiveness” by Toby Mac

Review

1. You and I are hardwired to be in a relationship with God
2. We broke the relationship but are lost without it.
3. Jesus paid the price of our crimes bringing forgiveness and reconciliation with God.
4. Receive forgiveness and be grateful! I am “Better than I deserve!”

Today, How does the atonement change how we live?

It enables us to forgive others. Why should I forgive others?

1. Because I've been forgiven so much

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus tells a parable that teaches us that we should forgive others. He begins:

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him”

“Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt”

“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’” “The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go” “When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you own me!’ he demanded”

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back”

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.”

“When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed”

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart”

A “back of the envelope” calculation, putting it into modern terms: The rich servant in Matthew 18 owed the King 10,000 talents. The poorer servant owed the richer servant 100

denarii. A denarius is a day's wages for a day laborer, so figure about 8 hours at minimum wage, minus taxes = \$50. So 100 denarii is about \$5000. The 10,000 talents is an amount 600,000 times greater, because there are 6,000 denarii in a talent. So the poor man may owe \$5000, which is not a small amount, but the rich man owes...

2. We can't receive what we won't pass on to others!

Matthew 6:12, 14-15- *"forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors."... "For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive the sins of others, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

3. Forgiveness is also an antidote for anger ... and it brings reconciliation in relationships as well.

October Baby- Paul's letter to the Colossians, *"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you..."* Colossians 3:13 &14

4. Forgiveness leads to a joy that can replace the pain and suffering that others have caused us.

CBS report- woman who forgives her son's killer.

Dr Lewis Smede was a Christian author, ethicist, and theologian in the Reformed tradition. He was a professor of theology and ethics who studied forgiveness and restoration.

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."

He wrote a sermon entitled "Five Things Everyone should know about Forgiving"

1. Forgiving is the only way to be fair to yourself after someone hurts you unfairly.
2. Forgivers are not doormats; they do not have to tolerate the bad things that they forgive.
3. Forgivers are not fools; they forgive to heal themselves, but they do not have to go back for more abuse.
4. We don't have to wait until the other person repents before we forgive him or her and heal ourselves.
5. Forgiving is a journey. For us, it takes time, so be patient and don't get discouraged if you backslide and have to do it over again.

How does Jesus' atonement for our sins change how we live? It gives us access to one of the greatest powers on earth... the power to forgive.