

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FEB 14, 2021 // BREATHING UNDERWATER



MAKING AMENDS

Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in our *Breathing Underwater* series, focusing on making amends—forgiving and extending forgiveness. This step in the 12-step program is one of the most difficult as it means reaching out to those whom you have hurt in the past. Forgiveness doesn't come easy or natural. We are so concerned with our image and self-preservation that admitting we've wronged someone means removing the façade and being vulnerable and exposed. So why even bother? Marty reminded us of how God responds to us when we turn to him for forgiveness, and how, in turn, we are to deal with forgiveness in our relationships. In both giving and receiving forgiveness, certain guidelines, and even boundaries, should be considered. As always, we can turn to many passages in God's Word to provide the hows and whys of owning up to our responsibilities when it comes to forgiveness..

SCRIPTURES:

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. – Matthew 6:9-15

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. – Colossians 3:13

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. – Matthew 5:23-24

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! – 2 Corinthians 5:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from Marty's message?
2. Read Matthew 6:9-15 and Colossians 3:13. What do you learn about forgiving others? What makes this difficult?
3. Read Matthew 5:23-24. What does Jesus say about asking for forgiveness? What makes this difficult?
4. Remembering that full reconciliation with others is not always possible or healthy, what should be our goal in forgiving others or asking for forgiveness?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16. How does this help you when it relates to forgiveness?

6. Make a list (mentally or physically) of those whom you need to ask for forgiveness. How will you make amends? (Do not feel pressure to share this with anyone in your group.)
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

As you consider forgiving, or receiving forgiveness from, others, the weight of God's mercy and grace will become more apparent. Turn to him in new understanding and gratefulness. Ask God to bring to mind those you need to seek forgiveness from, and for the words, or means, and courage to follow through. Seek forgiveness and let the other person determine the level of reconciliation. Pray that God's forgiveness of you will be always in your heart when anyone approaches you for forgiveness. Ask God to release any bitterness or grudges you carry, for his perspective when considering others, and reconciliation in relationships where possible..