

Forgiveness
Easter Service
22 March 2008

(**Luke 23:34**) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Jesus died of a broken heart for the sins of the world.

Today, we are all living in an ego center society and in a world that knows little about forgiveness.

God wants us to forgive others just like how He forgave others.

Failure to forgive will bring fourth four unpleasant things. So why must we forgive?

1. Unforgiveness keeps the PAIN ALIVE.

Keeping resentment will rob you for your joy.

Forgiveness on the other hand opens the prison doors. To let you be free from your hurt.

2. Unforgiveness produces BITTERNESS.

Longer you hold the bitterness of others, it will slowly infect you.

(**Hebrews 2:15**) and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

When you are bitter, you are not longer gracious. You become a harsh, angry and you even lose the graciousness in your speech. Because you are consume by anger. You are filled with thoughts of taking revenge.

Do you know bitterness and angry raises your health level to suffer heart attack by up to 500%?

Depression is anger turn inwardly.

3. Unforgiveness gives SATAN an open door.

(**Ephesians 4:26**) And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

(**Ephesians 4:27**) for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.

Unforgiveness will give license to Satan attacking your life.

You can be mentally, physically and spiritual attacked if you keep unforgiveness.

A lot of people will not have patience problem if they are willing to forgive.

4. Unforgiveness hinders FELLOWSHIP with God.

(Matthew 6:14) "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

(Matthew 6:15) But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

If Jesus could have forgiven you, how can you also not forgive others? Are you greater than God?

Unforgiveness will block the blessing of God in your life.

Forgiveness restores you to the joy you can have with God.

Conclusion ...

Do not let unforgiveness hold you back.

The cross has two beams ...

Vertical Beam: Receive unforgiveness from God

(Isaiah 43:25) "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

When God forgives, God forgets. He remembers nothing of what you have done wrong.

Horizontal Beam: Give forgiveness to others.

Do not keep the pain alive no matter what has been done to you.

Do not let bitterness take root in your soul.

And finally, do not block the blessings of God in your life.

Forgive those who have hurt you today!

Sermon taken from <http://www.bryanchung.sg>
