

LOF 2 - THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS (FINDING YOUR FREEDOM)

4/9/19 10:15 am

In the past two lessons we have UNCOVERED the following:

- We were able to recognize that we can **WIN OVER GENERATIONAL STRONGHOLDS** EVEN IF THEY have been in our families for years.
- We know that **NEGATIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS AND HABITS CAN hinder our spiritual growth** and threaten future generations.
- **Judgments and inner vows CAN PRODUCE A CLOSED HEART WITHIN US**
- **BUT IF WE LEARN TO FORGIVE GOD CAN PRODUCE A BRAND NEW HEART WITHIN US.**
- **OH I HEARD SO MANY TESTIMONIES AFTER TESTIMONIES**
- **TESTIMONY: SOME OF OUR LEADERS CALLED OUR PARENTS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME AFTER 5 YEARS OF NOT TALKING.**

TODAY WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT 'THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS'

1. Why is FORGIVENESS So Important?

1. WE FORGIVE BECAUSE GOD HAS FORGIVEN US FIRST.

- **Freely we have personally received forgiveness of our sin, so we must also freely forgive others (Matthew 18:23-35).**
- Cerita bible. Orang hutang banyak. Di wipe man.
- Terus dia keluar. Ketemu orang utang dia sedikit (tunjukkan comparisonnya).
- Tapi dimasukin penjara.
- THE KING WAS MAD, KOQ BISA.
- YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN MUCH!
- YOU HAVE BEEN LOVED MUCH!
- YOU DIDN'T DESERVE THAT LOVE
- YOU DIDN'T DESERVE THAT FORGIVENESS.
- BUT HOW COME YOU DON'T PASS ON THAT LOVE AND FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS PEOPLE WHO HAS WRONGED YOU!

- SO GOD WANTS YOU TO FORGIVE NOT FROM YOUR GOODNESS.
- **But GOD WANTS YOU TO FORGIVE OTHERS FROM HIS GOODNESS TO YOU.**
- KALAU KAMU MAU MENGAMPUNI OUT OF YOUR GRACE, GOODNESS AND KINDNESS, YOU WILL NOT BEABLE TO DO IT.
- BUT IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS BEEN SO GRACIOUS TO YOU.
- CERITA MORTGAGE WIPED OUT, HAPPY, TERUS KAMU GENEROUS

2. Forgiving ourselves removes **GUILT FROM YOUR LIFE** and enables YOU to receive God's best.

- **The power of guilt.**
- **Guilt itu prevent you to receive.**
- **"Too good to be true" is this even real.**
- **Anak yang hilang.**
- **Mau diangkat balik jadi anak, noooo put me as your slave.**
- **That's the sound of guilt.**
- **The sound of grace.**

3. Forgiveness empowers us to reach and love others with the true love of Christ.

- When we forgive, all of the sudden we can love.
- We can love your friends, we can love our enemies.
- **But most importantly we can love ourself.**

- **Orang banyak nga bisa love others, love themselves, dia mau, dia berusaha, but it can't.**
- **Because your tank is empty.**
- **Unforgiveness itu closing your tank, lid.**
- **Forgiveness is removing that lid.**
- **And once gods filled your tank, he filled it overflowing, he filled it until its NGELUBEEERR....TAKE MY LOOOVE I'VE GOT SOOO MUCH OF IT, I CANT CONTAIN IT!!!**

4. Accepting Christ's forgiveness brings SALVATION.

- UNFORGIVENESS MAKES YOU UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE LOVE OF GOD.
- WHY BECAUSE 'ITS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE'
- HOW CAN YOU FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'VE DONE TO YOU.
- BUT WHEN YOU FORGIVE OTHERS, **IT ENABLES US TO ACCEPT FORGIVENESS FROM OTHERS.**

5. Forgiving others brings RESTORATION.

- FAMILY IS BEING RESTORED.
- FUTURE IS BEING RESTORED.
- WITH ONE WORD 'IM SORRY' 'I FORGIVE YOU'

6. God's will is for us to live out what He demonstrated on the Cross.

- WE ARE HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS.
- WE OUGHT TO BE LIKE OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.
- HE DEMONSTRATE TO US.
- **HE LOVED US EVEN WHEN WE WERE A SINNER.**

- **Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice... be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another; even as God in Christ forgave you."**

2. Why Are We So Afraid To Forgive?

1. We may believe the person who hurt us **doesn't deserve forgiveness.**

- YEAH I GET IT, ITS NOT FAIR, THEY HAVE RAPED ME WHEN I WAS A KID, I COULDN'T FIGHT BACK.
- YEAH I GET IT, ITS PAINFUL, THEY HAVE ABUSE ME THROUGH THEIR WORD (STUPID, MEANT FOR NOTHING) EVERY SINGLE DAY.
- YEAH ITS BITTER, WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME AND MOM WHEN WE NEEDED YOU THE MOST?
- HOW COULD YOU DO THAT???
- YOUR MIND CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND IT.
- HE/SHE DOESN'T DESERVE MY FORGIVENESS.

○ **SO WE THINK BY NOT FORGIVING THEM, WE ARE ACTUALLY PUNISHING THEM.**

- BUT THE TRUTH IS UNFORGIVENESS IS NOT PUNISHING THEM, ITS MAKE US IN BONDAGE.

- **ITS LIKE SHOUTING 'I HATE YOU, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU, I WILL PUNISH YOU' FROM INSIDE A JAIL OF UNFORGIVENESS.**

○ **UNFORGIVENESS = TAKING GOD'S PLACE AS A JUDGE**

- ITS NOT OUR PLACE TO JUDGE. LET GOD DO IT FOR YOU.
- YOUR JOB IS TO FORGIVE AND BE SET FREE.

2. We fear the discomfort of revisiting memories and past wounds.

- I KNOW ITS UNCOMFORTABLE, SOME OF YOU ARE CRYING RIGHT NOW JUST THE THOUGHT OF YOUR OFFENDER.
- I KNOW ITS PAINFUL, YOUR CHAIR IS ALL OF THE SUDDEN BECOME VERY HOT, YOU WANT TO GO TO TOILET, ALL OF THE SUDDEN YOU WANT TO TAKE A DUMP.
- DON'T MOVE! GOD IS ABOUT TO MOVE IN YOUR LIFE!
- USHEERRRSS, LOCK THE DOORS, NO BODY MOVE, NO BODY GETS HURT.

○ **DON'T LET YOUR FEAR OF TEMPORARY DISCOMFORT PREVENT YOU FROM RECEIVING YOUR TOTAL HEALING. TONIGHT.**

○ **DON'T WAIT FOR NEXT WEEK, OH TOMORROW.**

○ **NOOOO ITS TONIGHT.**

○ **"IF ITS HEALING WHY IS IT SO PAINFUL?"**

- WELL, YOU'VE BEEN COVERING YOUR WOUNDS FOR YEARS.
- YOU ARE NOT HEALING THEM, YOU'RE JUST COVERING IT.
- SOME OF YOU ARE COVERING IT WITH JOKES.
- SOME OF YOU ARE COVERING IT WITH APPEARING STRONG.
- SOME OF YOU ARE COVERING IT WITH THE LOVE OF MAN.
- SOME OF YOU ARE COVERING IT WITH 'BEING PRIVATE'.
- BUT THEY ARE NOT HEALED, IT STILL WOUNDS.
- BUT HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT GOD WANTS TO OPEN THAT WOUND TONIGHT AND POUR OUT SOOO MUCH LOVE, SO MUCH GRACE YES YOU DON'T DESERVE IT, BUT HE IS POURING EVEN RIGHT NOW.
- HE LOVES YOU, HE WANTS YOU HEALED TONIGHT.

- HE WANTS TO MAKE YOUR WOUND, TO BE A BATTLE SCAR.
- ITS NOT PAINFUL ANYMORE.
- ITS NOT PERFECT.
- PEOPLE CAN SEE THE SCAR.
- BUT WEAR THAT SCAR PROUD, BECAUSE YOUR SCAR BECOMES YOUR TESTIMONY.
- YOUR BATTLE SCAR CAN HEAL OTHERS TOO.
- PEOPLE WILL SEE IT AND SAY 'IF YOU CAN DO IT, I CAN DO IT TOO!'

3. When You Choose Forgiveness, You Choose Freedom

- HOW MANY OF YOU WANTS TO BE SET FREE TONIGHT?
- NO MORE BONDAGE OF UNFORGIVENESS.
- NO MORE BONDAGE OF THE PAST.
- NO MORE BONDAGE OF BITTERNESS.

- YOU CAN BE SET FREE TONIGHT.
- YOU CAN BE SET FREE TO PRAISE!
- YOU CAN BE SET FREE TO BELIEVE AGAIN!
- YOU CAN BE SET FREE TO BELIEVE AGAIN!

- Regardless of our own opinions, there must be willful obedience to do God's will, God's way. We MUST forgive.

- **Matthew 6: 14-15 "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins."**

- **Luke 7:47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.**

THE MOMENT WE SAY I FORGIVE YOU...

We actually walk out of that Prison Door

Its fling open for you.

Walk out tonight.

4. LAY IT ALL DOWN TONIGHT!

- Recognize the people in your life now, and from your past, whom you have held in unforgiveness.
- Repent for the specific areas of unforgiveness in your life.

- Release the offenders in your life.

• **FORGIVENESS LETTER**

• **Write a forgiveness letter (15 mins)**

- Address it to your offender and explain why it is being written. Example: "Dear John, I'm writing this letter because..."
- Be specific about your offender's behaviour has affected you (relationships, self-esteem, etc.).
- If your letter is asking for forgiveness, take responsibility for the damage and pain you have caused.
- Close the letter in your own words. This is the part that you are going to RELEASE FORGIVENESS.
- STAY FOCUSED ON FORGIVING AND RELEASING
- Your goal in writing the letter is to LET IT GO AND BE FREE....FOR GOOD!
- **We don't recommend you read or deliver any letters to your offenders!**

- IN SOME INSTANCES YOU WANT RECONCILIATION WITH YOUR MOM OR DAD. THAT'S AMAZING.
- BUT IN SOME INSTANCES YOU DON'T WANT TO RECONCILE WITH YOUR RAPER.
- FORGIVENESS IS NOT RECONCILIATION WITH THE OFFENDER, FORGIVENESS IS RECONCILIATION WITH GOD.

RIP OPEN THE WOUND

GOD WANTS TO POUR OUT SO MUCH LOVE

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

2. Share your freedom story (15 mins)

- Get them to share their FREEDOM Story!
- Always close the discussion with FAITH
- PRAY FOR YOUR STUDENTS.