

Believing Like Jesus | Week #06

The Dangers of Human Thinking | October 21st and 24th

Anchor Verse: "...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2

What's the Issue Anyway?

Unforgiveness is not _____.

What wisdom does scripture offer us on forgiveness?

Matthew 16: The First Prediction of the Passion

Human thinking hinders _____ action in our world. (16:21-28)

Matthew 18: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Human thinking about forgiveness _____ for loopholes. (18:21)

Human thinking about forgiveness assumes the best of _____.
(18:22-27)

Human thinking about forgiveness assumes the worst of _____.
(18:28-30)

Human thinking about forgiveness expects something in _____.
(18:31-34)

Human thinking about forgiveness brings _____ consequences.
(18:35)

Don't Miss This!

Jesus believed in the power of _____ forgiveness and the _____
of human forgiveness.

What about my everyday, peacemaking life?

_____ what type of forgiveness you will offer: Divine or Human.

Divine forgiveness: letting go of all _____ and thoughts of
_____.

Divine forgiveness frees a person from a debt they could _____ repay.

Daily acknowledge your _____ for divine forgiveness.

How can this make me a better human and our world a better place?

Divine forgiveness teaches us _____.

Divine forgiveness can lead to understanding, empathy and _____.

Divine forgiveness contributes to _____ health.

What is God inviting you into today?

1. Consider where unforgiveness is torturing you and impacting your health.
2. Surrender to God your resentment and desire for revenge.
3. Daily acknowledge your own need for forgiveness from others and pray for the grace to forgive like Jesus.

Thought Provoking Questions for Groups or Personal Reflection

1. Talk about a circumstance where forgiveness was or is especially difficult. What factors contributed to your hesitancy to forgive?
2. How is forgiveness different than reconciliation?
3. In Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant, we see a few common ways of thinking about forgiveness; each brings its own problems. Why do you think we assume the best in ourselves when we need forgiveness but the worst in others when we need to offer forgiveness?
4. Do you agree that repentance is for our benefit and not God's? Why or why not? Based on your answer, is your image of God one of perfect love or righteous wrath? Is your image of God reflected in the actions of Jesus?
5. Think about a time where you felt like you were truly able to forgive someone—a time where you truly let go of resentment and revenge. How did you feel? Describe any changes you felt in your emotional, physical or spiritual health.