

Why "I'm Sorry" Doesn't Cut It

A QUICK LOOK BACK

Exodus 20 Exodus 21:1-11 James 2:10-11
Galatians 3:10-13 Deuteronomy 4:5-8

THE PASSAGE

Exodus 21:28 – 27:17

THE PRINCIPLES

Why I'm Sorry Doesn't Cut It

- (1) **MERCY** without **JUSTICE** would be **HELL**.

1 John 4:8 Isaiah 61:8 Isaiah 45:21

- (2) Restitution is the only way to make a **WRONG RIGHT**.

Exodus 21:28 – 22:17 1 John 1:9 Acts 20:21 Numbers 5:6-8 Matthew 5:23-24
Leviticus 5:14-15

- (3) When you've been **WRONGED**, *never* seek **REVENGE**.

Exodus 21:24 Romans 12:17-19 1 Peter 2:21-24 Matthew 7:2 & 18:21-35
Colossians 3:13

- (4) If you've done **WRONG**, *always* do your best to make it **RIGHT**.

Romans 12:18 Proverbs 14:9

- (5) Jesus is our **RESTITUTION**.

Galatians 3:24 Ezekiel 33:14-15 1 John 2:1-2 2 Corinthians 5:21 Galatians 3:13
John 19:30 & Hebrews 10:1-14

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 1, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. We heard this weekend how revenge is never the answer when we've been wronged. Have you ever been in a situation where you contemplated seeking revenge? What happened?

2. Have you ever been in a situation where you borrowed something from a friend or neighbor and it broke while it was in your possession?
How did you respond?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As we heard this weekend, we are called as Christians to not seek revenge but instead to extend forgiveness. In Genesis 32 & 33 we see the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau, brothers who had been estranged for years because Jacob had stolen Esau's inheritance and in response Esau made plans to kill him. After reading Genesis 32:3-11 & 33:1-11, answer the following questions:

Genesis 32:3-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁴ He instructed them: "This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: 'Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. ⁵ I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.'"

⁶ When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

⁷ In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. ⁸ He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape."

⁹ Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, LORD, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' ¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. ¹¹ Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children."

Genesis 33:1-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

Jacob Meets Esau

¹ Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. ² He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the

rear. ³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. ⁵ Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked.

Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant."

⁶ Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. ⁷ Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

⁸ Esau asked, "What's the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?"

"To find favor in your eyes, my lord," he said.

⁹ But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself."

¹⁰ "No, please!" said Jacob. "If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. ¹¹ Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need." And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

What principles of asking for forgiveness or pursuing reconciliation do you see in this story?

What emotions do you think Jacob experienced in this process? What about Esau?

Why do you think it's so difficult to ask for forgiveness?

Asking for forgiveness also doesn't mean that the other person believes we're being sincere about our apology. In his book *The Five Languages of Apology*, author Gary Chapman suggests this miscommunication happens because people apologize in five different ways (he calls them languages). As you read his five ways below, circle the one that is most important for you to hear from someone when they've wronged you.

- Expressing regret - "I'm sorry"
- Accepting responsibility - "I'm wrong"
- Making restitution - "What can I do to make it right?"
- Genuinely repenting - "I'll try not to do that again"
- Asking for forgiveness - "Will you please forgive me?"

Now, put a check next to the one that is most challenging for you to say to someone when apologizing.

How might these languages of apology help you own up to your stuff with God and/or with others?

2. The last couple of weekends we've heard about the 613 laws the Israelites were given to help them to live together peacefully. While the New Testament doesn't include a detailed moral code like the Old Testament, it does include general principles for living in the family of God. Which of the principles of healthy relationships in Ephesians 4:25-32 stands out to you the most?

Ephesians 4:25-32 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Can you think of anything that would help you live out these principles more consistently?

What would be the benefits to you and to those around you if you were to more frequently put these principles into practice?

3. On one occasion, Jesus had dinner with a Jewish man who held a local political position that provided him lots of opportunities to cheat his fellow countrymen. Because of his position, he was both rich and despised. How do you see the man's response to Jesus in Luke 19:2-10 illustrating the main points in Larry's sermon?

Luke 19:2-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

TAKING IT HOME

- 1.** Looking back on this week's teaching and homework, what's most important for you to remember?

- 2.** Can you think of any past wrongs someone has committed against you or injustices that continue to trip you up or bog you down? If so, how does the sermon speak to that situation?

- 3.** Can you think of any wrongs or injustices that you've done to someone else that you need to address with them?

Prayer Requests:

