Jesus the Storyteller – week 6

Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

1. Forgiveness is something we will always have to do.

*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"  Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.* ***Matthew 18:21-22***

1. The story about the unmerciful servant.

*"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."* ***Matthew 18:23-35***

1. Forgiveness is not:

Forgetting

*But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark.* ***Genesis 8:1a***

Pretending

*Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."* ***2 Samuel 12:13-14***

Trusting again

*A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.****Proverbs 14:15***

1. Forgiveness is
* Refusing revenge

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* ***Romans 12:17-21***

* Refusing to be consumed.

*A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.****Proverbs 19:11***

* Giving what I have received.

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

1. 3 practical tips:
* Talk to God
* Stop keeping score
* Do something