



Philippians 2

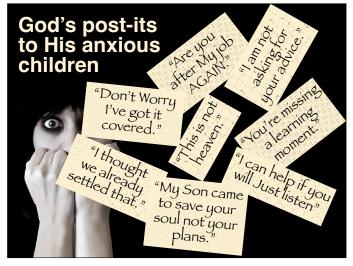
"12 ... work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Forgiveness starts with asking the right question.

Recognize that forgiveness is not about us & them, but about US & GOD.

"In the end, dear friend, it is always between us and God, not between us and them."

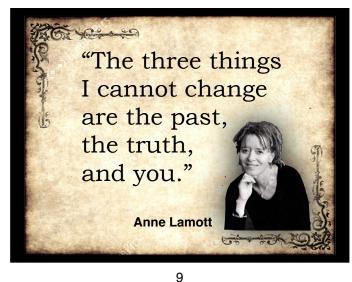
Mother Teresa

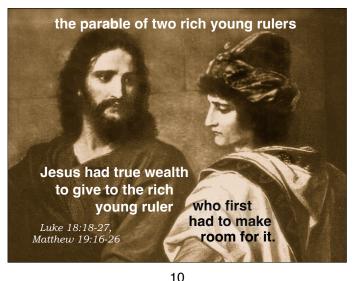


God is draining a "soul swamp" by challenging some common "sacred cow" expectations like:

- Demanding the Kingdom without its King and before its time.
- Assuming a seat on "God's" advisory board".
- Feeling responsible to change things over which we have no control.







Recognize that forgiveness

Genesis 3:5

"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Our sensitivity to injustice is a sign of God's image in us.



Let injustice lead to INSIGHT.



Bitterness

is like drinking poison and hoping your abuser dies.

Injustice and the pain that it produces comes from:

God's image in us pointing to God's message to us, about

God's love for us, through

God's grace upon us, in

God's Son given to us.

"He who has an ear to hear let him hear!"

1. 2. Recognize that forgiveness is not just about us & them, but about US & GOD.

Ephesians 4

"26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity."

> Anger & anxiety are windows to a life changing response.



Let vour RESPONSE to life's circumstances define your future.

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Claim the fame

"Mistakes were made, but not by me."

PASS THE BLAME

"You make my life miserable."

WEAR THE SHAME "I can't get anything right."

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Satan delights in our sensitivity to right and wrong so long as it leads no further than to

fear, pride, vengeance.



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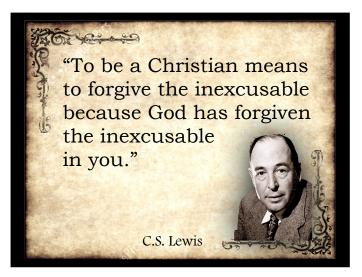
"30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption... 32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

> The sign of God's Spirit in us is seen in our liberation from our guilt and our forgiveness of others



Take BAPTISM seriously because God does.





1.
Recognize that forgiveness
is not just about us & them,
but about US & GOD.

Let injustice lead to INSIGHT.

2. Let your RESPONSE to life's circumstance.

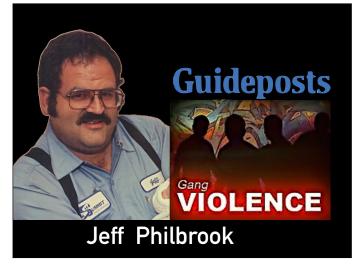
4. Take BAPTISM seriously

2 Corinthians 1

"3 ... the God of all comfort; 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

> Injustice invites us to bear witness to the Gospel through our response.

Seize the OPPORTUNITY to let injustice set the stage to showcase faith, hope, & love.



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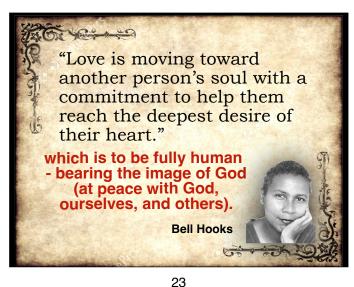
QUESTION

Should our comfort & courage come from believing that God is in control of all that happens, or that God anoints us to respond to whatever happens?

Love is a response to Our 1 Cor. 13:4-7 patient trials inner kind insults response not jealous success of others to people does not brag success of self & problems is not arrogant power & authority is a vital part not unbecoming freedom of how we share not self seeking competition confrontation the Gospel to a is not provoked world seeking holds no grudges iniustice does not rejoice hope and failure of others rejoices in the truth gossip & slander peace. bears all things losses believes/hopes all things discouragement endures all things delayed hopes

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Has become COMMON NEWS

There have been 574 school shootings in the U.S. from 2000 through 2024, leading to 462 deaths and 844 injuries.

- Sandy Hook Elementary School (2012): A 20-year-old gunman killed 26 people—20 children aged six and seven, and six adult staff members. Wikipedia
- Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas (2022): A shooter killed 19 fourth-grade students and two teachers. Wikipedia
- Columbine High School (1999): Two students killed 13 people (12 students and one teacher) and injured over 20 others before taking their own lives. Wikipedia



25 26

I come before You with a heavy heart. You know the pain I'm carrying — the hurt, the anger, the confusion. Lord, I don't want to be bound by this any longer. I want to walk in the freedom that You offer through Jesus.

Right now, I choose to forgive those who have hurt me in what they have done. I acknowledge that what they did was wrong, and it hurt me deeply. But I am releasing this burden to You.

l'm not excusing what happened, but l'm choosing to let go of my right to revenge or bitterness. I trust You to deal with it in Your perfect justice.

Lord, please help me with the parts I still struggle with. Heal the wounds in my heart. Restore what was lost or broken.

I pray for those who have hurt me, because they are made in your image and need to see that only you can satisfy their deep longings for life.

Teach us all to walk in forgiveness daily. Give me strength, wisdom, and peace. And help me become more like Jesus, who forgave even while He was being crucified.

I surrender this to You now. Thank You for forgiving me, and for giving me the power to forgive others.

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