

Discussion questions. 11th Feb 2024

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors Matt 6:12, 14,15. Jesus shocks us by His statement here that He will not forgive - we will break relationship with God if we harbour unforgiveness against those who have offended us. In Matthew 18:35 He reinforces this by saying that unless we forgive from the heart, we will suffer.

1] Discuss the importance of Jesus' statement '*forgive from the heart*' Matthew 18:35 (see *Proverbs 23:19; Exodus 8:15; Psalm 95:7,8; Hebrews 3:7,15; 4:7; Psalm 15:2; Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 4:23*).

2] Considering the importance of a soft heart to be able to hear God, what things tend to *harden* our hearts. (see Mark 4:17, 8:17; )

3] Jesus was full of *grace* and full of *truth*. John 1:14: discuss examples of His words that express each of these.

4] Discuss how the differences in personality or gifting affects the way we relate to others.. i.e *grace* - mercy gifting 'versus' *truth* - prophetic gifting. As in how to forgive easily or not pick up an offence.

5] What things do I need to work on to develop a *generous* spirit? Ephesians 4:2&3

6] Jesus did offend some people. Matthew 13:57, 15:12; 26:31; John 6:61. Discuss why people were offended. How can we avoid being offended?