



FORGIVENESS #4:

WHAT IF THEY DON'T REPENT?

STEP ONE: DID I SIN AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE?

- ▶ **Always consider this before anything else (Matthew 7:1-4)**
- ▶ **IF YES...**
 - ▶ **Be quick to seek forgiveness.**
 - ▶ **Act as if you are avoiding debtor's prison. Do whatever it takes.**
 - ▶ **Seek their forgiveness the way you sought God's forgiveness.**
- ▶ **Go to Step Two**

STEP TWO: DID SOMEONE SIN AGAINST ME?

- ▶ **Is this a *sin* against you?**
 - ▶ **Already, have an attitude of forgiveness; refuse to hold bitterness (Mark 11:25)**
 - ▶ **Do you need to confront the other person?**
 - ▶ **What damage has been done?**
 - ▶ **What do you hope to gain?**
 - ▶ **Has this offense harmed the reputation of God?**

STEP TWO: REPENTANCE

- ▶ **IF the other person repents, they are to be forgiven.**
- ▶ **Repentance is not a cessation of sin**
- ▶ **Repentance is a change of attitude that:**
 - ▶ **Acknowledges the act to be sin (*mind*)**
 - ▶ **Expresses contrition and sorrow for the sin (*affections*)**
 - ▶ **Agrees to war against the sin (*will*)**
- ▶ **We do not withhold forgiveness until they prove the genuineness of repentance. Rather, we grant forgiveness until their actions prove they have not repented.**

STEP THREE: WHAT IF THEY DO NOT REPENT?

- ▶ **How do you know this?**
 - ▶ **There comes a point where they refuse to ask for forgiveness**
 - ▶ **There comes a point where they refuse to fight against the sin - they "give in".**
 - ▶ **They adjust their doctrine to make their sin "acceptable".**
- ▶ **Reaching this point may take minutes - or years!**

STEP THREE: WHAT IF THEY DO NOT REPENT?

- ▶ **Matthew 18:15-17** - "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."
- ▶ **Remember the context of Matthew 18**
 - ▶ (Vss. 1-6) - conversion requires humility
 - ▶ (Vss. 7-9) - viciously war against *your own sin*
 - ▶ (Vss. 10-14) - parable of the lost sheep
 - ▶ (Vss. 21-22) - forgive up to 70 x 7
 - ▶ (Would your view of forgiveness ever get to 490?)
 - ▶ (Vss. 23-35) - parable of the unforgiving servant