

Spiritual Warfare: Proper Care of Wounds

Individualism vs Community (Army)

we Gather to Encourage (Heb 10:24-25) – Strength in Unity

accuser of brethren (Rev 12:10) Discourages – Divide and Conquer

Internal Conflict is an Opportunity – Choice: Encourage or Divide (Renewed Mind)

(Heb 12:12-15) ¹²Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Context: Receiving Correction (Heb 12:3-11) – through Relational Conflict?

Danger: disease/infection spread through army – Unforgiveness (Bitterness)

Forgiveness isn't Optional or Conditional – independent of offender's attitude

(Mt 6:14-15) ¹⁴“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵“But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (context: Lord's prayer)

(Mk 11:25-26) ²⁵“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶“But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

Self Interest – Harms Us, Offender Unaffected

we set our own Standard of Judgement (Mt 7:1-2, Jam 2:13)

Matthew 18:15-20 ~ Mindset

Honorable Restoration Process (Pr 17:9) – not Punishment (Expose)

goal: Binding, Agreement

sin against You – taking up offense (Psa 15:3) ~ grace

Matthew 18:21-35 ~ Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Unlimited Forgiveness (vs 21-22) – Daily (Lk 17:3-4, Lam 3:22-23)

millions/billions vs few thousand

(Rom 13:8) realize wealthy in forgiveness, can afford to be extravagant
tormentors (vs 34-35) – demonic oppression (ex: wrist healing)

Communion

1 Cor 11:17-22 ~ divisions/factions, selfishness (Unforgiveness?)

1 Cor 11:27-34 ~ unworthy manner, guilty of Lord's blood, judgement – sickness
not discerning the Lord's body - communion isn't individual!

Relational Community (Mt 5:21-26 same language as Mt 18)

embrace chastening, honor one another

Dangerous to Celebrate His Forgiveness with Unforgiveness in our hearts.

Unforgiveness is Misplaced Identity

defined by what someone said/did to you, not what Jesus did for you

special case: “you don’t know...” – Pride (Mt 18:1-5 childlike humility)

not saying offense isn’t real/big, choosing His higher thoughts/ways

(Rom 12:19) recognize we aren’t qualified to execute just vengeance

ex: raped woman “they have to pay” story (they will, or He will)

we can’t get mercy for ourselves and judgement for others (Mt 7:1-2, Jam 2:13)

Forgiveness is a Decision (court) – feelings follow (ongoing renewing of mind)

doesn’t suspend wisdom (trust, relationship)