

The Kingdom - Part 2

- Jesus in flesh gave us a glimpse of "On earth as it is in heaven."
- One way we become "Kingdom-Minded People" is by forgiving.
- Matthew 6:12,14-15

Jesus in the Temple - John 8

- John 8:3-4
- Leviticus 20:10
- John 8:5-6

Jesus Was Expected to React in One of Two Ways:

The First Way - To Condemn.

- We don't throw rocks, but a common response when offended is to condemn.
- The modern-day version of being dragged into the public square can be social media.

The Second Way - To Ignore the Offense.

"True peacemakers love God, others, and themselves enough to disrupt false peace...You can't have the true peace of Christ's kingdom with lies and pretense. They must be exposed to the light and replaced with the truth. This is the mature, loving thing to do."
-Peter Scazzero



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Jesus Shows Us a Third Way.

- John 8:6-8
- Jesus' masterful answer neither minimized the woman's quilt, nor denied the Law.
- He undercuts the trap of the Pharisees as he reveals they were unfit to be her judges or her executioners.
- John 8:9-11
- Luke 23:34
- He was providing a way of forgiveness to us before we even knew we needed it.

What Forgiveness is NOT:

- Immediately making pain go away.
- Changing the past.
- Trusting immediately.
- Placing ourselves back into a situation.

What Forgiveness IS:

- Canceling a debt that another person owes.
- John 13:34
- John 8:11b
- Jesus builds a bridge to the woman instead of a case against her.

"Forgiveness is more like the air in your lungs. There's only room for you to inhale the next lungful when you've just breathed out the previous one. If you insist on holding unforgiveness, ...you will suffocate very quickly." -N.T. Wright