

Series: After the Beginning
The Amazing Power of True Forgiveness
Part Eight: Forgiven and Forgiveness 101 – The Problem
(Identifying What is and What is NOT Authentic Forgiveness)
Genesis 43:1-48:22

MBC:AM; 12-11-11; 0184

Introduction: (Use Media Presentation: Forgiveness Test)

1. A HARD LOOK AT THE PROBLEM: (Correctly identify what is and what is not authentic forgiveness)

A. What True and Authentic Forgiveness is NOT: (How Joseph could have acted and reacted)

- 1.) Forgiveness is not giving you one up.
- 2.) Forgiveness is not one way.
- 3.) Forgiveness is not keeping records of wrong.
- 4.) Forgiveness is not distorting, ignoring or suppressing your true feelings .
- 5.) Forgiveness is not denying your bitterness and anger.
- 6.) Forgiveness is not ending open relationships.

B. What True and Authentic Forgiveness IS: (A story from the New Testament: Matthew 18:21-35)

- 1.) Forgiveness is realizing and admitting wrongdoing.
- 2.) Forgiveness is reaffirming love.
- 3.) Forgiveness is releasing the past.
- 4.) Forgiveness is renewing repentance.
- 5.) Forgiveness is rediscovering community.
- 6.) Forgiveness is forgiving as we have been forgiven.

Moment of Decision:

(Taken in part from David Augsburger's book: Caring Enough to Forgive, Herald Press, 1981)