

Scripture  
Reading  
Micah 7:15-20

**“As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.” The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the Lord our God, and shall fear because of You. Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?**

**He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities.**

**You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.**

# **FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION**

Heath Morris



# INTRODUCTION

- Definition of Forgiveness
  - An intentional decision to let go of resentment and anger
- Definition of Reconciliation
  - The process of making two groups friendly again
- Story of Haman



# FOUNDATION IN THE WORD

- Key Verses
  - Matthew 6:8-15 -  
Jesus on Forgiveness
  - Ephesians 4:31-32 -  
Be Kind and  
Compassionate
  - Colossians 3:13 -  
Bearing with One  
Another
- Two Perspectives
  - Forgiveness from God
  - Extending Forgiveness  
to Others



# UNDERSTANDING FORGIVENESS

## FORGIVENESS IS NOT FORGETFULNESS

- Definition: Forgetfulness
  - Finding it hard to remember things

## FORGIVENESS HEALS RESENTMENT

- Definition: Resentment
  - A negative emotion to being mistreated.

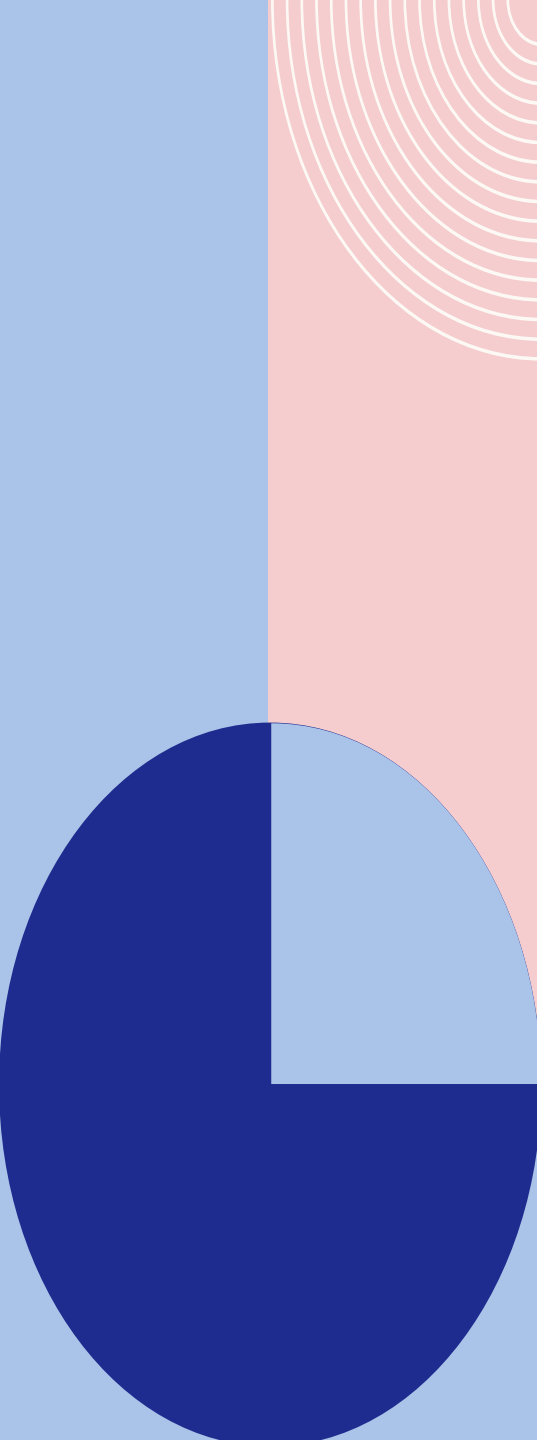
# THE MODEL OF FORGIVENESS

- Luke 23:32-34
  - forgive them, for they do not know what they do
- Mathew 18:21-35
  - Up to seventy times seven
- Luke 6: 32-38
  - For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.
- Mark 11:25-26
  - Forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you
- Acts 7:51-60
  - Lord, do not charge them with this sin



# **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

- Steps Toward Forgiveness
  - Acknowledging the Pain
  - Choosing to Forgive
- Pursuing Reconciliation
  - Initiating Conversations
  - Seeking Common Ground



# CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

- Difficulty of Forgiveness
  - Betrayal and Hurt
  - Rebuilding Trust
- Overcoming Barriers to Reconciliation
  - Anger
  - Pride and Ego
  - Fear of Vulnerability





# ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE

- The Freedom of Forgiveness
  - Breaking the Chains of Bitterness
  - Restoring Peace Within Oneself
- God's Promise of Restoration
  - Isaiah 43:18-19 - Making All Things New
  - Possibility of Renewed Relationships

# HOW WE GET THERE



## SCRIPTURE

- Matthew 6:8-15
- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Colossians 3:13
  
- Luke 23:32-34
- Mathew 18:21-35
- Luke 6: 32-38
- Mark 11:25-26
- Acts 7:51-60



## KEY POINTS

- Jesus is Our Model for Forgiveness
- Reconciliation takes work.
- Forgiveness may not be easy, but it brings freedom
- God's Restoration



## CALL TO ACTION

- With God's Strength You Can Do Anything
- Commit to always assuming others are on your side
- Let go of the chains of resentment
- Embrace Being Like Jesus