

## *Generosity: How God's Radical Grace Makes Us Givers*

### **Study #2: "Generosity and Relationships"**

The Text: Luke 17:3-10 NIV

<sup>3</sup> So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister<sup>[a]</sup> sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. <sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

<sup>6</sup> He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

<sup>7</sup> "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? <sup>8</sup> Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup> Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Questions:

1. What is your response to be called an "unworthy servant," whose duty it is to offer unlimited forgiveness?
2. What is the connection between Jesus' teaching on forgiveness (vv. 3-4) and his response to his disciples about faith and duty (vv. 6-10)?
3. What are the specific steps listed in Jesus' command to forgive and how is this different from the ways we have thought of forgiveness?

The Text in the Bigger Story:

Commentators note that Jesus is referring to Leviticus 19:17-18.

<sup>17</sup> "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. <sup>18</sup> Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."

4. What do you think it means to "rebuke your neighbor frankly" in the context of loving your neighbor as yourself?

### Jesus Completing the Story

5. Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). How does Jesus’ life as a servant transform your understanding of what it means to forgive?

### Living Out the Story

6. How does the forgiveness God offers us through Jesus radically transform the way we extend forgiveness to others?
7. We are called to be a people of reconciliation and peace, yet we often find ourselves in situations where a lack of forgiveness has alienated us from those who have wronged us. What are some practical steps we can take to reach out to those who have sinned against us?

### PRAYER

***Praise*** God for his endless forgiveness and radical kindness toward us. Praise Jesus that he humbled himself and became a lowly servant who gave himself for our salvation that we might share with him the riches of God’s inheritance.

***Confess*** that our hearts are often hard toward one another and that we too often forget the grace that has been lavished on us. Confess that we are prone to hold grudges against others, disobeying Jesus’ command to freely forgive.

***Ask*** that God would open our eyes to his grace and mercy and that by beholding his grace to us, we would readily forgive others and diligently seek reconciliation for broken relationships. Pray that as he helps us understand Jesus’ humility and service, that we also would humble ourselves and be generous in how we relate to others, especially those who wrong us.