

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT
FORGIVING OTHERS



How do you respond when wronged?

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

→ _____

How do you respond when wronged?

→ OFFENSE

→ RESENTMENT

→ HATRED

→ GRUDGE

→ REVENGE

Be Intentional About Forgiving Others

→ Do you agree or disagree?

"The hardest thing God asks me to do as a Christian is to forgive someone who has wronged me"

"Failure to forgive
will haunt you all of your life"



What happens when we
can't/won't forgive?

Inforgiveness



Be Intentional About Forgiving Others

1. The Background to Ahithophel's story- 2 Sam 11-15

A. David's sin of adultery and murder (ch 11)

B. Nathan's rebuke & David's repentance (ch 12)

C. Amnon's rape of his half-sister, Tamar (ch 13)

D. Absalom's killing of Amnon & exile (ch 13)

E. Absalom's revolt against his father, David (ch15)

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2. The Betrayal of David by Ahithophel- 2 Sam 15-17

A. His Identity- a trusted advisor (16:23; 1 Chronicles 27:33)

B. His Response to Absalom- a huge surprise! (15:12)

C. His Advice- a shocking insight into his life (16:20-17:4)

D. His End- a terrible death (17:23)

→ My question is WHY???

+ Why did Ahithophel's life go in this direction?

+ Why the betrayal? What caused his defection?

+ Why such deep bitterness, & hatred?

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→ **My conclusion is**

Ahithophel had a son, Eliam (2 Sam 23:34)

+Eliam had a daughter, Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:3)

=resentment, bitterness, & hatred

Be Intentional About Forgiving Others

3. The Bitterness that stalks us all

4 PRINCIPLES THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

A. I must recognize that failure to forgive leads to a life of bitterness

B. I must be committed to a ministry and spirit of forgiveness before the offense takes place (Col 3:12-13; Eph 4:32)

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you



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- C. I must consider the example of God in forgiving me (Eph 4:32)
- D. I must acknowledge my own shortcomings/failings (Gal 6:1-3)



Be Intentional About Forgiving Others

→ Taking it home . . . So what? Now what?

1. Is there someone that you need to forgive?
2. Where are you on the downward stairway?



Where are you on the downward stairway?

→ OFFENSE

→ RESENTMENT

→ HATRED

→ GRUDGE

→ REVENGE

Be Intentional About Forgiving Others

→ Taking it home . . . So what? Now what?

1. Is there someone that you need to forgive?
2. Where are you on the downward stairway?
3. Will you commit yourself to a ministry of forgiveness?



Be gentle with one another, sensitive.

Forgive one another
as quickly and thoroughly
as God in Christ forgave you.

Eph 4:32
(THE MESSAGE)