

4/21/19

TAKE HOME

Speaker: Pastor Al

(Further study on today's message for individuals, families, or small groups)

BREAK FREE: Thru Forgiveness!

GETTING STARTED

- What are some of the things people today become “enslaved” to?
- What does it mean to you to be free? What doesn't it mean?
- Is there anything in this week's message that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Share an experience where someone wronged you and you had a hard time forgiving that person. What did it do to you to hold on to that “grudge”? Were you able to finally forgive? If so, how did you feel as a result of forgiving?
2. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus was quoting Isaiah 61:1-2 when He said He has come to “proclaim freedom for the prisoners”. If someone asked you what that meant, what would you say people are imprisoned by? How does forgiveness set us free from being imprisoned?
3. Pastor Al had mentioned that sometimes the person we need to forgive is ourselves. Do you agree or disagree? Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves?
4. Read Matthew 6:14-15 and Ephesians 4:32. According to these passages, what is our motivation in forgiving others? Why would this motivate us?
5. How does focusing on God's forgiveness help change our perspective on forgiving others?
6. Discuss the “typical” process from being wronged to offering forgiveness. What are some of the emotions one goes through in this process? Share some examples of how our willingness to forgive people who wrong us can be freeing. What is the “bondage” that it frees us from?

TAKE AWAY

1. What is one area of your life that you have had a hard time forgiving yourself for? Knowing God has forgiven you, how might that change your attitude?
2. What strained relationship will you seek to repair this week by forgiving an offense?
3. How can people be praying for you this week?

Additional Resources (RightNowMedia.com See bulletin for info on how to sign up)

- “Finding Freedom” (5 Sessions) – Lorie Hartshorn
- “Freedom” (3 Sessions) – Donna Lamothe
- “From Vengeance to Forgiveness – Jake Deshazer story” (3 Sessions)

Video sermons available online at gatewaymerced.org/messages



Want to get involved but don't know where to begin?

Here are three steps to help you get connected right where you are...

Step 1: Connect



In this first step, join us the 1st Sunday of each month for our kid-friendly **Newcomer's Meet & Greet** to meet the staff, make new friends and discover how pursuing God with us can impact your story.

Step 2: Community



In this second step, discover how to build community by making friends, following Jesus and making a difference in a **small group**. We believe real growth happens in community!

Step 3: Serve



In this third step, we want to equip you to unleash compassion both locally and globally, changing the world by **using the gifts God has given you** where you are.

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