



HEART *and* SOUL

Heart and Soul – Part 3
A Forgiving Soul
Pastor Dave Patterson
October 27-28

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Matthew 18:23-35

“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷ Then his master was filled with compassion for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.’ ³³ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Luke 17:1

Jesus said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come.”

Proverbs 17:22 (TPT)

A joyful, cheerful heart brings healing to both body and soul.

But the one whose heart is crushed
struggles with sickness and depression.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

“The state of our soul determines the course of our life.”

“The health of our soul determines the quality of our life.”

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it *spring* the **issues of life**.

<p>Issues – <i>Hebrew</i> <i>towtsa'ah</i> = The outflow that creates the borders and boundaries, the source that produces</p>

Proverbs 11:25

“the generous soul will have blessings heaped on them”

Hebrews 12:15 (TPT)

Watch over each other to make sure that no one misses the revelation of God's grace. And **make sure no one lives with a root of bitterness** sprouting within them which will only cause trouble and poison the hearts of many.

A BITTER HEART:

1. Justifies treating people harshly
2. Feels entitled
3. Feels sorry for itself (martyr complex)
4. Rehearses the past
5. Drives away the ones they need most

Romans 2:4

“Do you realize that all the wealth of his extravagant kindness is meant to melt your heart and lead you into repentance?”

Ephesians 4:31-32

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**

Colossians 3:13 (TPT)

Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. We all have countless opportunities to forgive – it's just life. See Luke 17:1, above. Do you find forgiving to be an easy or a hard process? Something you easily move toward, or find yourself resisting?

2. As a group read Matthew 18:23-35, the parable of the unforgiving servant. Forgiveness is a gift, likened to a “baton” that must be passed on. Share a time when you have been forgiven much. What did that feel like?
3. Pastor Dave said we need to position our heart to be ready for forgiveness. What do you think that looks like? How do you position your heart to be always ready to forgive?
4. Proverbs 4:23 in the NKJV states: *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.* “Issues” is defined as: *the outflow that creates the borders and boundaries* (of life). Discuss the idea that from our soul (heart) borders and boundaries are created. How might these borders/boundaries differ if produced from a healthy place verses a contaminated place?
5. Pastor Dave described the characteristics of a bitter heart.

A BITTER HEART:

- Justifies treating people harshly
- Feels entitled
- Feels sorry for itself (martyr complex)
- Rehearses the past
- Drives away the ones they need most

Which of these, if any, are holding you back from a heart positioned towards forgiveness?

6. Repentance is a change of mind/heart, and involves a change in direction. The process was stated this way:
 - Conviction (leads to)
 - Repentance (leads to)
 - Reconciliation (leads to)
 - Restoration – Acts 3:19

It was said that reconciliation is often the most difficult step in the process because it requires us to make the phone call, or some other action. When considering forgiveness and releasing people from guilt, what step in this process do you find challenging?

7. In Isaiah 53 we read that Jesus was “bruised for our iniquities.” Pastor Dave explained iniquities are the once straight but now twisted places in our soul; the part of us that got offended. Jesus was bruised for our internal wounds. Spend some time as a group praying for

one another, that the Lord would shine his light into our souls, and show us those bitter places that need healing.

8. This week, when you have time alone with God, ask him to show you who you might still be holding an offense against. How is God inviting you to repent and reconcile with this person? What is your next step?