

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson Ten- The Cornerstone of Forgiveness (1 of 2 on this topic)

Brief review

Benefit of biography- side note

Brief view of familiar Scriptures on forgiveness - Ps. 86:5, 11-12, 15; Neh.9:17; Dan. 9:9; I Jn. 1:9 and Eph. 4:32 (Mat. 18:21-35)

"as God in Christ forgave you" - foundation, anchor, ground, source..... of our forgiving others

Prayer for Holy Spirit's work

For some this issue is a roadblock to growth in the Christian life and to true intimacy with God. God's forgiveness uniquely showcases God's grace.

Word itself in the Hebrew and Greek carries the idea of "to cover, to lift up and away, to send away, to loose away, to lift up and away, to cover, to be gracious to...."

Story from Susan Hunt's book about **Julia and Sarah**

A less familiar indirect Scripture on forgiveness: **I Sam 25**

Story of **Abigail** - a wise, gracious woman who God used as a catalyst to turn David's revenge away from her foolish husband Nabal

Let's look at the drama as it unfolds and glean

Sandwiched in between I Sam. 24 & 26(where David shows restraint and humility)

- account of Nabal's offense to David
- David on the rampage
- Abigail is warned and acts quickly- of a sophronizo mind!
- Her actions
- Her demeanor
- David's response

Pertinent Scriptures to note: I Sam. 25: 18-19, 23-24, 26-31, 32-34, end of story is 37-39

Gleanings about Abigail:

Think of probably what her marriage was like

Personal experience with wrongs

Servants knew she was a wise woman - proven character

Vanity of revenge

Apparently understood bigger plan God had for David-

Heb. 12:15- where does refusal to forgive send us. Read excerpts from SM

Break for Discussion groups

Next week: we will look more at this, finishing the chapter 10 of Spiritual Mothering, with contemporary examples and the positive fruits that come from forgiveness.

Lesson Ten Discussion Questions

1. Thinking on Abigail (account recorded in I Sam. 25 and comments by Mrs. Hunt) as a promoter of peace and protection in a volatile situation, how might we be “ lubricating oil rather than a piece of grit that clogs up the works worse”?
2. Depending on a number of factors, forgiveness can be an ongoing process. What do you think some of these factors are?

[For instance, accidentally stepping on my toe and asking for my forgiveness is a far cry from purposely and repeatedly blowing up at me and asking for forgiveness. Or a 2 year old having a come apart hissy fit at you is not so much a personal offense as a husband who has a come apart at you.!!!!]

3. If there are stages in the forgiveness process, and you are dealing with a particularly difficult offense, what stage do you think you might be in ? (Stages may not be the best term.) I.e. Are you struggling to forgive someone in your life? What do you think is hindering you from forgiving?
4. I think we can legitimately see that forgiveness and reconciliation are two different things. What is the difference? What makes reconciliation possible?
5. I have heard it said “forgiveness is for your freedom.” What do you think that means? Anything you would choose to share, please do.