



## Be Forgiving – Message 6

### Announcements

- **Easter at Church of the King** // Invite your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to experience Easter like never before. Go to <http://churchoftheking.com/easter> for Good Friday and Easter services at all campuses.

### Warm-up

*What is your favorite part of spring?*

“ Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Today we complete the *When Life Hurts* series with this statement in Luke 23:34 that Jesus made from the cross. Discover how forgiveness can help you through difficult times in life.

### Word and Application

It’s absolutely incredible to realize that in the midst of excruciating pain and torture, Jesus looked to Heaven and prayed for those responsible to be forgiven. *Forgiveness is more for us than it is the other person.* Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain your thoughts.

The act of forgiveness releases the bitterness that dwells in our hearts when we refuse to forgive others. When we choose not to forgive, we become chained to the offender and the offense. A key thing to remember is *forgiveness is not a feeling; it’s a choice.*

In this short prayer, Jesus intercedes to the Father on behalf of his “haters.” Let’s take a look at the deep significance of Jesus’ prayer.

**1. Jesus fulfilled prophecy**

**Read Isaiah 53:12.** Seven hundred years before this event, Isaiah prophesied that one day this would take place. What is the significance in knowing his prayer fulfilled prophecy?

**2. Jesus modeled the importance of prayer**

**Read Matthew 6:9.** Jesus modeled for us through prayer even those who are the furthest away from God can still come to know God in a personal way. How can knowing this help you to forgive someone who has wronged you?

**3. Jesus revealed man’s greatest need**

**Read Matthew 26:28 and Matthew 9:6.** What do these two passages reveal about the state of mankind and the position of Jesus as the Son of Man?

Our greatest needs are not blessings or healing. It is salvation. How often do we say or do something to a person without even realizing we offended them? This is why we need the Good Shepherd, to take care of us even when we don’t think we need it. Share with the group a time when you offended someone and had no idea you did until much later.

Now that we understand the significance of forgiving others, what do you practically do when you’ve been wronged or hurt by someone? Although, it may not always be easy to do, here are two biblical keys that lead us to forgiveness.

**1. Pray for those who hurt you.**

**Read Luke 6:28 & Matthew 5:43-44.** It is important to remember that forgiveness is a choice. We cannot wait for the other person to apologize. Why do you think God tells us to pray for our enemies?

**2. Pray for reconciliation.**

**Read Romans 12:17-18 & Colossians 3:13.** Reconciliation means to bring back into peace and harmony. But sometimes, things might not happen in a situation the way you hope. You might not get closure you want. Despite all of this, you can trust God for the outcome even if things don’t make sense at the time. Is there a broken relationship in your life that needs restoration? Do you need to apologize, repent, or forgive someone? Don’t wait to extend grace God has extended to you.

What practical steps can you take this week to restore a relationship?

**Prayer**

Thank God for teaching us through His son about forgiving others. Ask God to give you the boldness to forgive someone on your mind. Pray for specific needs of the group.