Victory Connect Lesson How Did We Get Here? Pastor Paul Daugherty September 15, 2024

**Key Passage:** Col 3:13 NLT - Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

**Introduction:** We enter relationships with good goals in mind, but unforgiveness can take us "all over the map" and far from our intended destination. We can freely forgive others because Jesus freely forgave us.

#### 1. An offended friend is hard to win back.

Pro 18:19 NLT - An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

### 2. Those who forgive others will be forgiven.

Mat 5:7 NLT – "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

#### 3. Jesus said anger is as serious as murder.

Mat 5:22 NLT — "But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell."

### 4. Be prompt to restore offenses.

Mat 5:25 NKJV - "Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison."

# 5. We must examine ourselves when offenses arise.

Mat 7:5 NKJV - "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

## 6. We cannot put a number or a limit on forgiveness.

Mat 18:21-22 NKJV - Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Were you ever separated from a friend by offense?
- 2. Share a time you initiated the restoration?
- 3. Share a time you forgave before the other repented?

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