

## Sermon Notes

Matthew 6:12;14-15;18;15-25

January 24, 2016

### Grace to Forgive

*Love In The Time of Cholera* is a book where the author portrays a marriage that broke apart due to a bar of soap. "It was the wife's job to keep the house in order, including provision of towels, toilet paper, and soap in the bathroom. One day she forgot to replace the soap, an oversight that her husband mentioned in a exaggerated way ("I've been bathing for almost a week without any soap"), and that she vigorously denied. Although it turned out that she had indeed forgotten, her pride was at stake and she wouldn't back down. For the next seven months they slept in separate rooms and ate in silence. "Even when they were old and placid," writes Marquez, "they were very careful about bringing it up, for the barely healed wounds could begin to bleed again as if they had been inflicted only yesterday." Can a marriage *go south* over something so small? If an offence causes an injury but is never released by the grace of forgiveness--absolutely! Jesus shows a better way.

- In general would you say it is easier for you to *give* or *receive*?
- When you consider the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35, put in your own words a "blessing" you experienced by following His advice.
- Pastor Steve observed that when it comes to forgiveness most find it much harder to give than receive it. In what ways does that describe your experience?
- What makes forgiving someone for a *repeated offense* so difficult? (Look at Peter's question again and consider Jesus' reference in MT. 18:21-22).
- Some of the strongest words about forgiveness were spoken by Jesus. (Check that out in MT. 6:12, 14-15, 18:35). Can you think of an exception to His counsel? Explain why *God's grace* is needed to follow such counsel.

### Digging Deeper in God's Word

Ps. 103:2-3; Is. 53:5-6; Mt. 10:5-8; Acts 20:35; Rom 7:17-25; Eph 4:31-32; Heb 8:12; 1Pet 2:23-24; 1Jn 1:9; 4:19

Grace Series by \*Pastor Steve McCracken  
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