



FORGIVING & BEING FORGIVEN

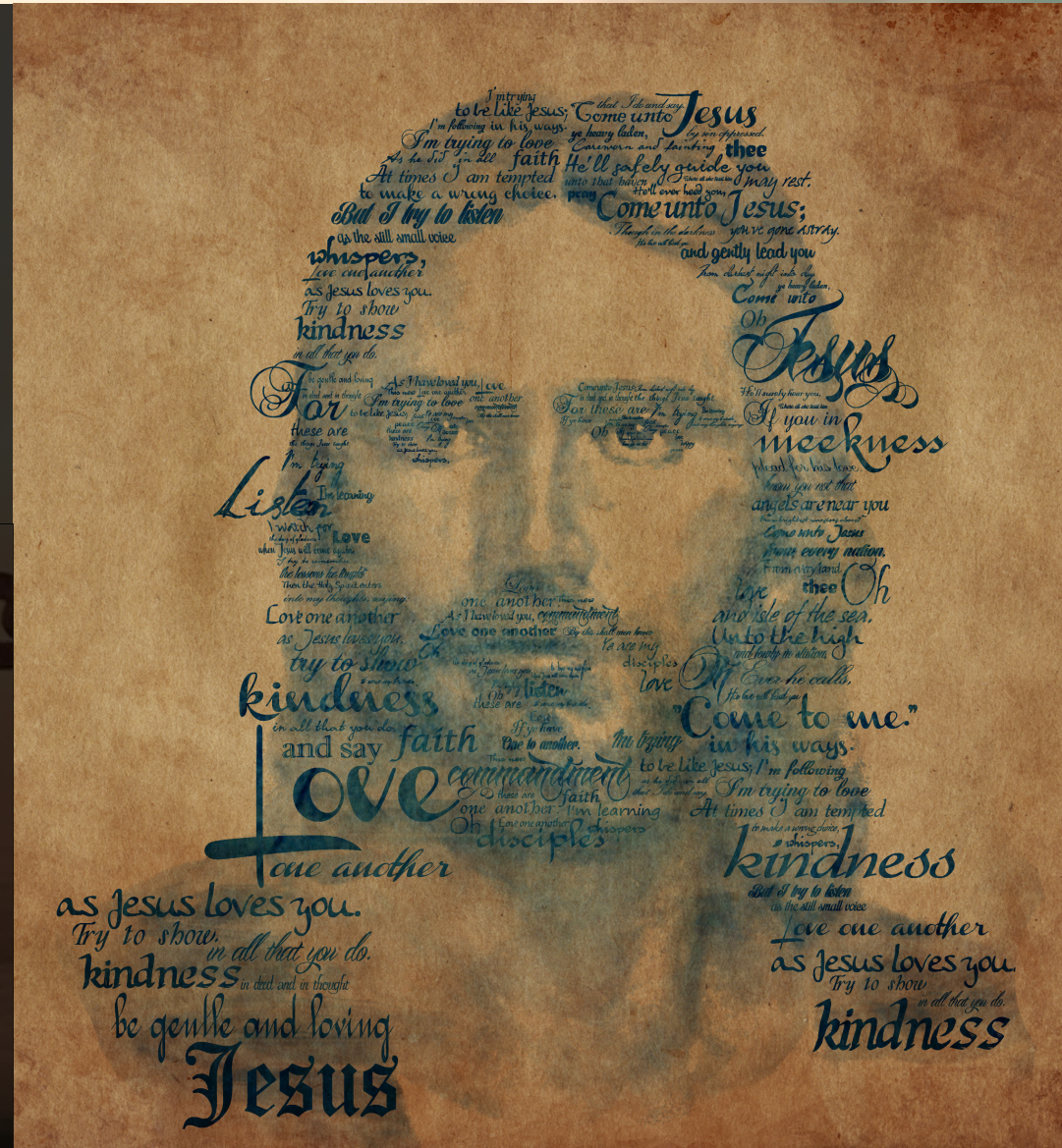
BECOMING LIKE JESUS

THE PRACTICES OF A DISCIPLE:

1. BE WITH JESUS
2. BECOME LIKE JESUS
3. DO WHAT JESUS DID

“MAKE SURE YOU AREN’T LIVING A ‘**VAMPIRE CHRISTIANITY**’ WHERE WE SAY TO JESUS, “I’D LIKE A LITTLE OF YOUR **BLOOD**, PLEASE. I DON’T WANT TO BE YOUR **STUDENT** OR HAVE **YOUR CHARACTER**. IN FACT, EXCUSE ME WHILE I GET ON WITH **MY LIFE**, AND I’LL SEE YOU IN **HEAVEN**.”

— DALLAS WILLARD —



“Sin is not breaking a rule,
it is breaking a relationship.”

Eugene Peterson



FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is when we release those who sin against us from our personal right to collect on the moral debt for their offense.

FORGIVE

When Jesus encountered sin in need of forgiveness:

- He didn't choose to ignore it, minimize it, or look the other way.
- He didn't gloss over the fact that the sin caused damage to relationship.
- He wasn't retributive: He didn't choose to pay the person back.
- He acknowledged the sin, but then chose to forgive it. It cost Him.

FORGIVENESS IS NOT

Forgiveness is when we release those who sin against us from our personal right to collect on the moral debt for their offense.

“For us humans, forgiveness does not erase the past. Rather, it opens up a new future by blocking the past from poisoning that future.”

—Philip Yancey

- Forgiveness does not mean forgetting, it means learning & changing.
- Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation, but opens the door to it.
- Forgiveness doesn't mean you allow someone who has hurt you the opportunity to hurt you again
- Forgiveness is not a one-time event but an ongoing practice.

FORGIVENESS & LOVE



QUESTIONS:

- 1. WHAT PARTS OF THE PHARISEE'S ATTITUDE DO YOU RELATE TO?**
- 2. WHAT IS SO COMPELLING ABOUT THE WAY THAT JESUS INTERACTS WITH THIS WOMAN?**
- 3. HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE CORRELATION BETWEEN FORGIVENESS AND LOVE IN YOUR OWN LIFE?**

TAKE IT HOME:

Part 1: Being Forgiven by God

Ask the Holy Spirit:

- Is there anything in my life for which I need to repent?
- Is there anything in my life of which I haven't fully received God's forgiveness?

Take time to listen. Note the areas He reveals. Confess your sins asking for His forgiveness.

Invite the Spirit to heal and reveal the forgiveness that is yours in Jesus.

Part 2: Who Do I Need to Forgive?

Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal specific offenses, people, or circumstances in which forgiveness needs to take place.

Take time to listen.

Record what you sense the Spirit speaking to you, so that you can take the time this week to process and pray through it.