**Reflections-09-17-17**

Forgiveness, mercy, grace

*“Have you ever been accused of being too forgiving?”*

Matthew 18:21-35

1. How many times do you think it’s fair to forgive a person who has hurt you? Once? Twice? Three times? Seven times? Or seventy times seven?
2. Pastor Glen believes that after someone hurts you or causes you harm there is always “pain”. In the midst of the pain, you can make one of two decisions. You can choose “to harm” or choose “to heal”. Do you agree?
3. Pastor Glen claims that forgiveness is a painful process, but that it’s more important for the one “hurt” to forgive than for the offender to be forgiven. Do you agree?
4. Pastor Glen said that forgiveness and justice are two different things. Do you agree? Why?
5. Forgiveness comes from a root Greek word that literally means “to send away” or “to release”. Pastor Glen says to forgive, one needs to “let go”. Do you agree or disagree?

**Matthew 18:21-35**

21 Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ 22Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;25and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” 29Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 31When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” 34And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. 35So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’