

Being Big Enough to Forgive

SERIES: DAVID Part 9

1 of 3 typical responses of forgiveness in most people.

#1 The **FIRST** response is instead of complete forgiveness, we offer **CONDITIONAL** forgiveness.

- "I will forgive you IF . . ." or, "I will forgive you AS SOON AS . . .";
- "If you come back and make things right, I'll forgive you," or
- "If you own up to your part of the problem, then I'll forgive you."

#2 The **SECOND** kind of forgiveness that's less than perfect is **PARTIAL** forgiveness.

- "I forgive you, but don't expect me to forget."
- "I forgive you, but just get out of my life."
- "I'll forgive you until that happens again."

#3 The **THIRD** response is **DELAYED** forgiveness.

- "I'll forgive you, but just give me some time. Someday, sometime I'll follow through, I'll forgive you."

*Most of us would rather sit on a **JUDGMENT** seat than a **MERCY** seat.*

1. Forgiveness isn't just about the other person; it's also about us.

An Example of Complete Forgiveness

Psalms 40:1-2 (NLT) I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

Psalms 40:12 (NLT) For troubles surround me— too many to count! My sins pile up so high I can't see my way out. They outnumber the hairs on my head. I have lost all courage.

2 Samuel 16:5-8 (NASB); 2 Samuel 16:9-10 (NLT) "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?" Abishai son of Zeruiah demanded. "Let me go over and cut off his head!"

2 Samuel 16:12 (NLT) And perhaps the Lord will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses today."

QUESTION: How in the world could he do that? What do we need in our lives?

ANSWER: Soft HEART and thick SKIN.

2 Samuel 19:16-20

*Shimei said the three hardest words in the English language,
"I have SINNED."*

Indifference is certainly not forgiveness.

Indifference is RAGE controlled.

2 Samuel 19:21 (NIV) Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this? He cursed the LORD's anointed."

2 Samuel 19:22-23 (NIV) David replied, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? This day you have become my adversaries! Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Do I not know that today I am king over Israel?" So the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king promised him on oath.

How Could David Forgive Shimei?

1. He kept his VERTICAL focus clear.

2. David was very much aware of his OWN failure.

Sound Advice to Help Us Forgive

1. We must cultivate a thicker layer of SKIN.

2. We can try to understand where the OFFENDER is coming from.

Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."



**In that one statement, we realize how our Lord
viewed His enemies.**

3. We should recall times in our own life when we have needed FORGIVENESS and then apply the same emotion.

4. We need to verbalize our forgiveness. SAY IT, don't just think it.