

# What about this Stuff about Forgiveness?

Last time we introduced our study of Grace & forgiveness through Luke.

## Three Unique Aspects of Luke's Gospel

1. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel  
Pages: Matthew—53; Mark—3; **Luke—56**; John—41  
Verses: Matthew—1071; Mark—678; **Luke—1151**; John—879  
Words: Matthew—18,346; Mark—11,304; **Luke—19,482**; John—15,635
2. It is the only Gospel with a \_\_\_\_\_: book of Acts
3. It is the only Gospel written by a \_\_\_\_\_  
Col 4:10-14 Luke is not part of the circumcision  
Tradition states that Luke was from Antioch (Acts 11:19-21)

"Any Gentile feeling out of place in an originally Jewish movement could benefit from reassurance Luke offers" (Bock, Luke, pg 15)

1. The Gospel was first taken to the Jewish people (Rom 1:16)
2. God intended for all to be saved, including the Gentile (Gen 22:18; Jn 10:16)

### A. The Background to Luke's Gospel (1:1-14)

- this is one long sentence in both the Greek and English
- (1) this Gospel is directed specifically to an individual: Theophilus (a Gentile name)
- (2) stories handed down from eyewitnesses who were there at the beginning
  - this implies the apostles (Acts 1:21-22; Lk 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32)
- (3) Luke has investigated these stories carefully
  - "so you might know the exact truth about these things" (1:4)
  - Luke is interested in accuracy and "consecutive order" (1:3)

### • How might Luke "investigate" the accuracy of these things?

The Gospel of Luke & Acts refers to 32 countries, 54 cities, 9 islands 95 specific names. Luke is aware of the world political scene (Augustus, Tiberius) all the way down to local rulers, such as Felix and Festus.

If Luke investigated carefully what the apostles told him, why are there so many events in Luke that are not in Matthew or John, who were eyewitnesses?

### B. This study focuses upon Grace & Forgiveness in Luke

1. Biblical concept of forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-35  
(27) the two components of forgiveness: driven by \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_ what is owed
  - forgiveness is giving up your \_\_\_\_\_ to demand restitution from another for hurting you
  - forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_. It is not expected or owed

C.S. Lewis: "Forgiveness is a beautiful word until you have something to forgive."

2. Forgiveness is something that God expects from us (Mt 6:12, 14-15; 18:15-17; Eph 4:32; Col 3:12-13)
  - it is one of the hardest things to do
  - it is necessary to maintain relationships & fellowship

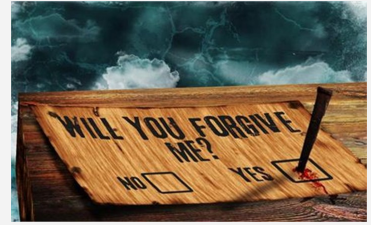


When Forgiveness is missing:

1. Pain \_\_\_\_\_
2. The future with that person is \_\_\_\_\_
3. Relationships cannot be \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be gained back
5. Joy and peace are \_\_\_\_\_ from our hearts

**Understanding Forgiveness: What Forgiveness is NOT:**

1. Simply saying, "It's \_\_\_\_\_"
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a person
3. More than withholding retribution
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The same as \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ everything
7. Eliminating \_\_\_\_\_



What does grace have to do with forgiveness? Why are they together?

**B. Just what is grace?**

- The word grace is charis in the original language. It is often translated as gift or thanks
- we sometimes use the word grace for prayer
- Paul opened most of his letters with grace and peace to you  
The word means \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) It is used as the avenue which God saves us

- salvation is considered a \_\_\_\_\_ from God (2 Cor 9:15; Eph 2:8)
- John 1:14 says that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ of grace and truth
- Heb 4:16 Jesus sits upon the throne of \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Grace is God's choice. The one who has been hurt, offended, sinned against—it is their right and their choice as to if they will forgive and how they will forgive

(3) Grace \_\_\_\_\_ our lives (Titus 2:11-13)

Do I have to forgive someone who says that they are sorry? What if I don't want to forgive them?

I have forgiven, but why do I still hurt so much?

Do I have to forgive someone who never says that they are sorry?

If I forgive, do I have to return to the same situation?

