

Dig - Well # 4

Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:30 AM

Genesis 26:12-25 New International Version (NIV)

18 Isaac **reopened the wells** that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

Here's what we have said so far. In order to re-dig or dig for the first time these spiritual wells of nourishment, we must...

recognize...

1. The Vital Importance of Fresh Water

appreciate...

2. The Proven Validity of Old Wells

realize...

3. The required Necessity

Since the first of the year, I have encouraged you to dig and drink from...

1. The Well of The Word of God
2. The Well of Prayer and Intimacy with God
3. The Well of Fellowship with other believers

The Well I want to talk about today is one that I believe is often not recognized as a source of continued spiritual nourishment rather it is viewed as necessary for salvation and occasionally needed if some severe offense should come into our lives. I want to try and change that perspective today as we consider the Well of Forgiveness

As we unpack some truths about this well, I want us to come to understand the importance of drinking from its waters every day and how those waters meet 2 different but intricately interconnected needs in our lives

In order to see both of these aspects of this well let's turn again to Matthew 6

Matthew 6:11-12,14-15

11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Notice I began with verse 11 that at first glance seems to be talking about an unrelated subject

However I believe God placed these truths in this particular order to remind us of the daily importance of not only our physical need of bread but of our spiritual need of forgiveness

This passage also identifies the two different types of drinks that we need to draw from this well. Being forgiven of our own spiritual debt and forgiving others who have trespassed against us.

We must come to see this as one cup of forgiveness. To believe that we can somehow drink from one side of this cup and not the other is a lie that Jesus will not allow us to accept

So how do we dig, re-dig or maintain this well in such a way that we can draw water from it?

Forgive us our Debts

- Confess

Romans 10:9-13

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

To Extend an open hand

homologeo (Greek)
Yada (Hebrew)

To Agree with

there is a need for forgiveness

I am a sinner (this is wrong)

There is no other way to be free
from guilt and shame

Adam where are you?

1. We are afraid of what God will
do to us

2. We are afraid God will take it
away from us

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- Believe

Believe that God Loves me
Believe that He will forgive me
Believe that He has the authority to forgive me
Believe that He took my punishment upon
himself on the cross

- Ask

Everyone who calls...
Adam where are you?
we don't have because we don't ask

- Receive

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

There is a need for us to take a hold of this
to take hold of with the hand in order
to use
receive His forgiveness, Love, Newness

- Repent

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

To Change ones mind thinking
Direction

This term may be applied to this entire process; but I also think we should refer to it as a step in this process saved to the end as it is as a result of the process that if that we are able to change

John 8:11

11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

As we have forgiven our debtors

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you define what forgiving means in your particular situation

Forgiving doesn't mean excusing sin
nor does it mean enabling the person
to continue to hurt you

Forgiving does not necessarily mean
reconciliation or closeness to the
one who has hurt you

Forgiving is the pathway to freedom
and healing and wholeness for
you

- Ask for His strength to accomplish what you can not

Your Kingdom come your will be done
Precedes forgiving our debtors

- Let go of your right to hold the note for this debt

Forgiving means we trust God with
holding people accountable

- Release the hurt and the one responsible for it into Gods hands

It can be difficult to let go of
the hurt. Sometimes it helps to
invision ourselves saying goodbye to it

- Pray for them and ask God to bless them

Matthew 5:44

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Using the illustration of Debt...
When we pray that our enemies or
debtors are blessed, we are
Inadvertantly Praying that we
will be blessed (or that they will
have the money or ability to make
reparations)

- Resist dredging up buried debt

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and

compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.