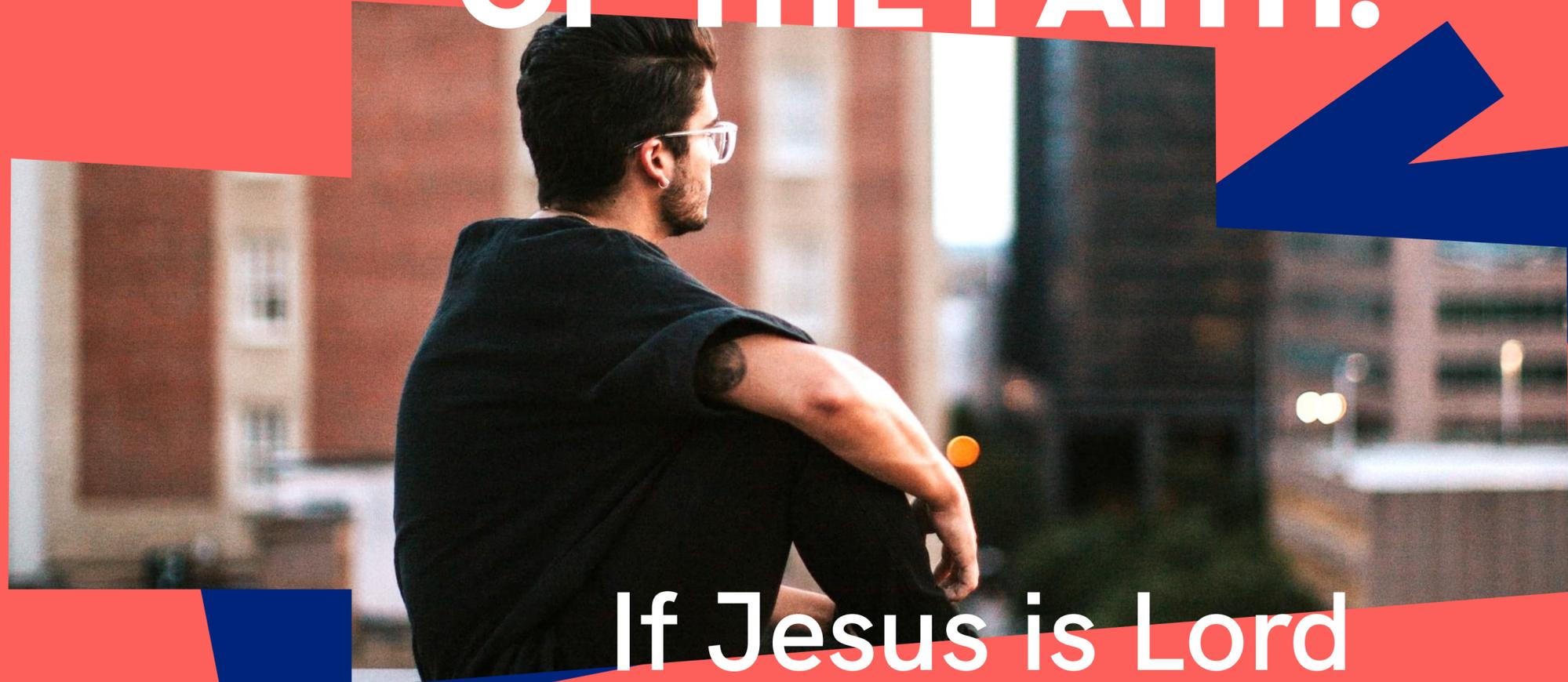


ACC SERMON SERIES
JAN—APR 2023

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH.



If Jesus is Lord
and Messiah what
should we do?

ACTS 2





Forgiveness

Acts 2:36-38

Matt. 18:21-35

Sermon 4 of 12



FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

If Jesus is Lord & Messiah what should we do?

FORGIVENESS

**OUR GREATEST
NEED IS
FORGIVENESS
BECAUSE WE SIN.**

What is sin?



→ Sin is rebellion against God; concerns our relationship with God

→ Sin is a matter of heart before it's ever an issue of behaviour.

→ Sin is not primarily an action, it's a disposition. It's our soul's aversion to God.

→ Sin is not merely breaking the rules. It's a relational breach with God that is both painful and offensive to Him.

FORGIVENESS

THE EFFECTS OF OUR SIN.



→ Sin always has negative or harmful effects on the sinner, or on other people.

→ Part of the reason God hates sin so much is that He knows how much it hurts and damages people.

→ Sin affects our relationship with God by creating a relational chasm between Him and us.

WHAT DOES
OUR SIN
BRING US?

Punishment.

*But Jesus
offers us
forgiveness!*



To forgive us,
Jesus suffered. In
forgiving us,
rather than
punishing us, he
chose to bear the
cost himself.



FORGIVENESS.

- ▶ Forgiveness means God doesn't count your sin against you any more, or remind you of it, or remind Himself of it!
- ▶ Forgiveness means freedom from the past: no more guilt!



THE
WONDER
OF
FORGIVENESS

HOW CAN I BE FORGIVEN?



→ Talk to God
and:

Just
confess
and ask



WHAT FORGIVENESS MEANS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

→ **When you sin...**

Confess & be reminded afresh that all your sins are forgiven!

→ **When you sin...**

Remember: forgiveness means your sin no longer defines you.

→ **When you sin...**

Allow God's forgiveness to inspire you to forgive others.

Parable of the unforgiving servant.
Matthew 18:21—35

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive
everyone who sins against us.

Luke 11:4

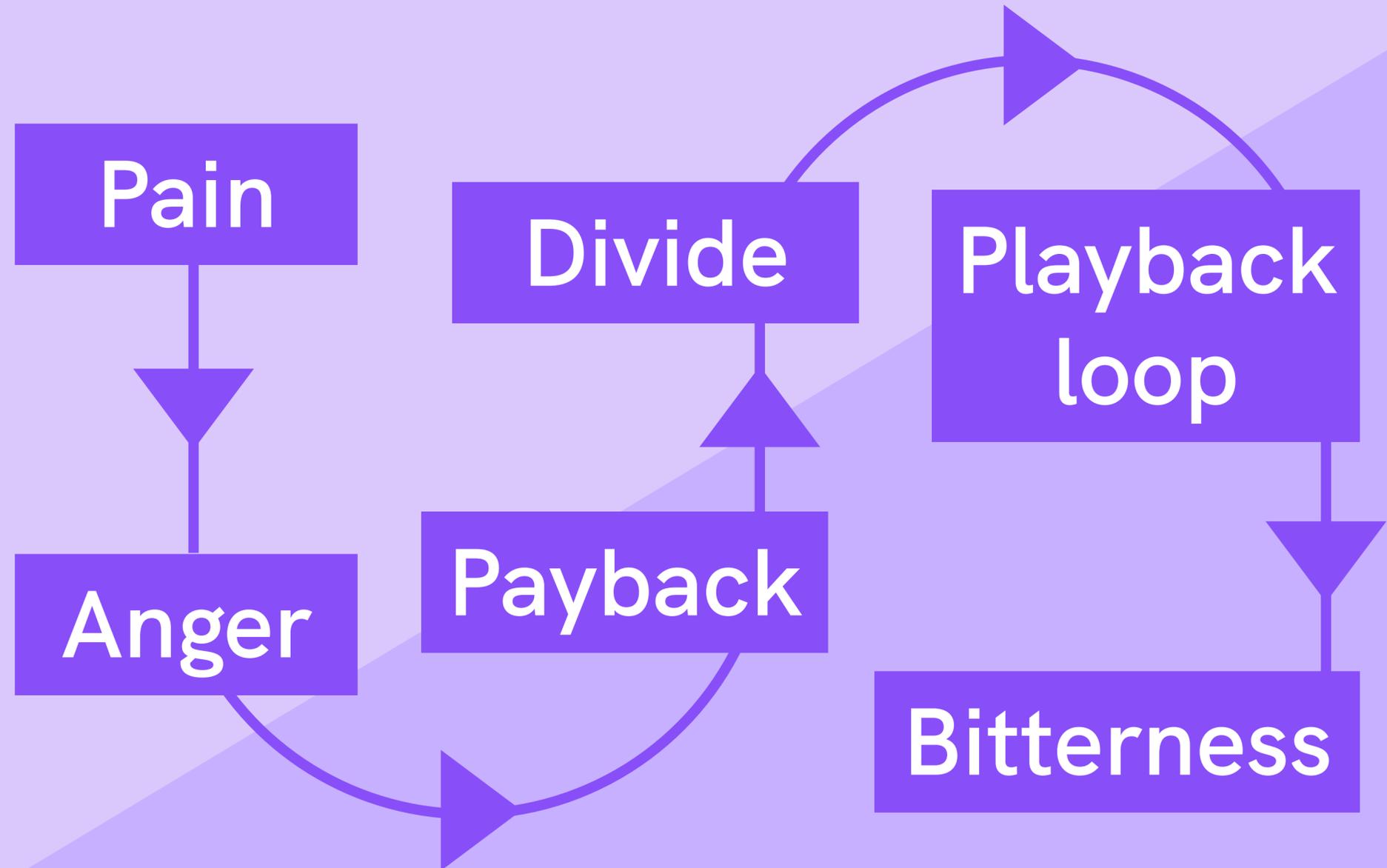
But if you do not forgive others their sins,
your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:15

THE BIBLE TELLS
US WE MUST
FORGIVE OTHERS



WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN WE
ARE
WRONGED?*



*From
Forgiveness by
J. Marsden

MATTHEW

18:21

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'



MATTHEW 18:21—35

Notice the numbers

→ Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **Mt. 18:22**

→ Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times." **Gen. 4:23—24**

77

→ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

10,000

As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold [*Greek: talents*] was brought to him. **Mt. 18:23–24**

MATTHEW

18:25-27

Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.



→ **FORGIVENESS...**



is all
about
grace

▶ **συνᾶραι**
▶ **ὀφειλέτης**

▶ **ἀποδοῦναι**
▶ **ἀπέλυσεν**

συνᾶραι = to compare
(settle) account, make a
reckoning

ὀφειλέτης = a debtor, an ower; person indebted

ἀποδοῦναι = to pay, pay back, render what is due

ἀπέλυσεν = to cancel, free fully, relieve, release



**“FORGIVENESS
MEANS CLOSING THE
BOOK-KEEPING
DEPARTMENT OF
YOUR HEART”**

FORGIVENESS CANCELS THE DEBT.

'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins [denarii]. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.

100

'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back."

'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. Mt. 18:28—30

FORGIVENESS.



**IF WE DON'T
FORGIVE
SOMEONE,
WE'LL
CHOKES THEM**

If we don't forgive, we demand payment

MATTHEW

18:32-35

'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'



HOW TO FORGIVE WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO OR FEEL WE CAN'T*

*From
Forgiveness by
J. Marsden

CHANGE THE FILM

*Don't playback
the film of you
being wronged.*

**Playback the film
of God cancelling
your massive debt
of sin & forgiving
you.**

GET A BIG SCREEN

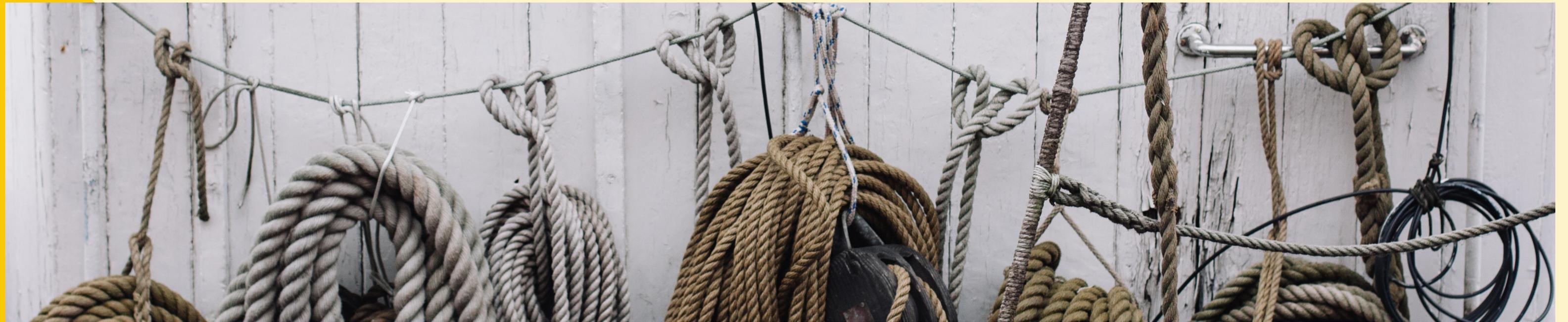
**However great the
offence your
brother caused
you, it's
minuscule in
comparison with
the offence you've
caused God.**

GET A MIRROR

*See who you
really are.*

**You're a sinner
who doesn't
deserve to be
forgiven, just like
your perpetrator.**

TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS



→ Forgiving others doesn't mean we become doormats

→ Forgiveness is a 2 way transaction

→ God isn't asking us to do something he's not done himself

→ Forgiveness is painful

→ Forgiveness is a process

→ Forgiveness is about the heart's desire

MATTHEW

18:35

'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

