Dig-a-bit Month 5 Episode 2
The God of More: The God of More Forgiveness (Part 2)
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Forgiveness Inspires Fear?

Good morning. I hope that you're having a great day. I got up early this morning to dig. Don't know if I'm going to be able to accomplish the chores that I want to accomplish, because I'm going to be sleepy, I think. But the study has been great. We are in chapter five of The God of More, and we're talking about God's forgiveness.

And right now we're talking from the Psalms. There is one question on page 40 if you are in your study guide, and that is number six. We are talking about Psalm 32 and the four words for sin, for the iniquity that David committed. In 2 Samuel chapter 11 and 12. We talked about four characteristics of or we wrote about four characteristics of sin from those from Psalm 32.

And then we are mentioning four blessedness characteristics, four descriptions of forgiveness that are also found in the first two verses of Psalm 32. And then number six on that page says, that's how I feel about sin. I can't say enough about how much it hurts and the guilt that it causes. So then I can't say enough about forgiveness, about the release from that guilt.

We are challenged to find another verse in Psalms, and I hope that I'm not stepping on your verse, but I wanted us to look for just a minute, at a bit of Psalm chapter 130. There's a part of that psalm that says, out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord, O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications or pleadings, or beggings.

If you, Lord, should mark iniquities or impute iniquities, as we study from Psalm 32. If you should mark iniquities, who should stand? That is, nobody would be able to stand before you if you were taking account of each of our sins and holding them against us, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with you. And then this phrase that I wanted us to think about just for a minute, there is forgiveness with you.

And the King James Version says that you may be feared, that you may be feared. Well, that doesn't seem to go together. That seems to be a contradiction that there's forgiveness with God so that we can be afraid of him so that we can fear him so that we can tremble? And that is the meaning, one of the meanings of that word fear, but also involved in that word fear is the inspiration of reverence on the part of God.

God inspires reverence. He inspires godly fear. He inspires awe in us because of his longing to forgive and because of his ability to forgive us. His willingness to forgive us. It makes us have this godly fear or awe of him. Just this week, there were a couple of my grandchildren who got into it over a brand new game that one of them got for Christmas.

This game had not been opened, and apparently the owner of this game was looking forward to opening it himself and playing with it himself for the first maiden voyage of this board game. Well, what happened was a sibling came and got that game out of the game closet and took it on a little trip that she was taking with her mama, and she took that game with her, pulled it out of her backpack when they were away from the sibling who actually owned the game.

And she said, let's play this game. Well, I think mama was quite unaware of maybe who the game belonged to, but she was certainly unaware that the person who owned the game was so intense, so looking forward to opening it himself. That seems to me that it would be a given, but we had a little scrap over this game, a little verbal scrap over this game, and the one who owned the game asked me because I was in charge at that moment to have a talk with the one who opened his game.

And I promised that I would. And so I went in and I found that the offender, the one who had taken the game, also had a new game that had not been opened. And so I said, were you looking forward to opening this yourself? And she said, yes. And I said, well, in the morning I want you to take this game to your brother, and I want you to tell him that this game is for him to open and is for him to bring down to my house and play it with me the very first time that it is played.

And she sadly said, okay, okay. And then at that opportune moment, her brother, the one whose game she had opened, walked into the room and she said, I'm so, so sorry that I did that. I should not have done that. At that moment. The offender had made it right and the offended, the one whose game was opened, had this choice.

He had a choice to say, oh, you don't really mean that you're going to do it again. You knew that was my game and you knew I wanted to play that game. And why, why, why did you take that? You knew better. You knew it was mine. You knew I wanted to open it. And you're apologizing, but you'll just do it again.

He could have said that. And maybe it sounds like I know a little bit too much about that answer. Or he could have said.

It's okay. I know that you weren't thinking when you did it. I know that you have thought now and that you're sorry and I forgive you.

And I want us to be. If I use the big term, I would say reconciled. If I use the kid term, I would say I want us to be friends again.

You know, there are two choices in that case the forgiver, the one who should be forgiving, has two choices. Which choice do you think would inspire respect from that little sister who opened up his game? Which one of those choices would make her think the most of, respect the most, and have an awe, a sense of awe about the forgiving spirit of her brother?

Well, I think we can understand how that that attitude of full forgiveness and favor inspires respect and awe in a much bigger way, a much more complete way than if the one who needs to forgive is standing there with an attitude of I don't really want to do this, but I have to do this. Well, I think that's what the psalmist is saying here.

I think the psalmist is saying there is forgiveness with God full, complete forgiveness. It's the God who says, I'm not slack concerning my promises, but I'm longsuffering, not willing that any should perish. It’s the God of whom the psalmist says, your mercy endures to all generations. That's the God. It's the God who in Psalm 130 hears from the depths of our hearts when we cry, his ears are attentive to the voice of our supplications, and he does not mark our iniquities, because if he marked iniquities, who should stand?

But there's forgiveness with God, that God may be feared. I hope you have a great day.