**Conflict Resolution 101**

Matthew 18:15-35

Forgiveness is never easy. It seems easy for us to remember that others are sinners.

How do we resolve offences that will inevitably come in a world of sinful humanity? (Matthew 18:7)

**Confrontation is Necessary (Matthew 18:15-20)**

* Right response – “go and tell him his fault”

1. Paul practiced it – Galatians 2:11

* Right motive – “gained your brother”

1. Forgiveness & restoration

* Right spirit – “you and him alone”

1. Galatians 6:1

* Right procedure – (vv.16-17) multiple attempts

1. Not once and done
2. Not gossiping & slandering

* Right results (vv.18-20)

1. Honored by God (v.18)
2. Harmony in God’s family (v.19)
3. Harmony with Christ (v.20)

**Forgiveness is Required (Matthew 18:21-35)**

* Why is forgiveness so hard for us? (v.21)

1. We are self-righteous – “against me”
2. We are proud – “I forgive him”
3. We are deluded – “up to seven times”
4. We are selfish – forgiveness is releasing a debt – it’s costly

It is these difficulties that Jesus addresses in His parable.

**What are we saying when we refuse to forgive? (Matthew 18:23-35)**

* My sin debt with God is smaller (vv.23-27)

**10,000 Talents**

* David donated 10,000 talents for building of the temple (1Chron. 29:3-4)
* Josephus recorded the annual Roman taxes of Judea, Idumea and Samaria as 600 talents while Galilee and Perea paid 200 talents.
* 1 Talent = 6,000 Denarii – 1 denarii was a day’s wage for a foot soldier or common laborer (minimum wage).
* Working 6 days a week it would take 191,693 years to pay 10,000 talent debt.
* $7.50 hr. x 8 hrs. = $60.00 a day x 60,000,000 days = $3,600,000,000 (three billion, six hundred million)
* Others sin debts against me are more serious (v.28)

1. 100 denarii was large but not insurmountable. It was 600,000 times smaller than 10,000 talents.

* I have a right to vengeance (v.28) – “took him by the throat”
* I do not fear the consequences of forgiveness (vv.31-35)

1. God will severely punish as unforgiving spirit.