

Forgiveness - It's not easy, but it's simple

Sassy: I can see you're carrying a heavy load and you need to put it down.

How is our bitterness toward others damaging to ourselves?

Bobby: Don't go tainting my character just because I do something everyone else does.

Are there things I justify because everyone around me is doing it?

DRIVER: Everyone speeds on this section of the road and they were all passing me.

BOBBY: And yet that doesn't make you any less guilty.

Have you ever felt like that driver? How did Bobby indict himself with his answers to the driver?

Sassy: You've been talking to me just fine. Talk to him (God) the same way.

Is talking to God that simple? Do we make prayer unnecessarily difficult?

Jesus tells a story about an unforgiving servant. After begging for mercy, he was forgiven millions of dollars. Then he went out and sued someone who couldn't pay back a hundred. Naturally, the master was not happy with his servant's ungratefulness. (See the whole story in Matthew 18:21-35)

How was Bobby like that unforgiving servant? How did his unwillingness to forgive his grandfather reflect the state of his own heart?

Bobby: This week I was forced to take a look inside myself and I didn't like what I saw. I realized that I was blaming everyone else for their sin, but was giving myself a pass.

When we refuse to forgive, we fail to recognize the great sinfulness of our own sin before a holy and righteous God.

When we confess that sin, God is eager to forgive us. We need to be just as eager to forgive those who have sinned against us.

Bear with each other and forgive one another... Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)

Sassy: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." That's our only hope, Robert... (1 John 1:9)

You can make the same decision Bobby did. Confess your sins and allow God to forgive you. Tell God today. It may be hard, but it is simple.

Be sure to share your decision with another believer and follow what scripture says. "Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38)

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