



1. Introduction

a. What is courage?

- decision to act even in times of difficulty or in face of danger
- * life could be in danger
- * even could feel fear

b. Takes courage to forgive someone

- forgive is to set aside the offense
- decision to treat other person as if they did not offend
- other person must ask for forgiveness to receive it

c. Sinful people give offenses to other people - even Christians

- word for giving offense is "stumbling block" in Greek
- Judas Iscariot offended Jesus of Nazareth, Nazareth
- * Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus to death
- * Jesus called Judas Iscariot "friend" (Mt 26:48-50)

2. Christian Responsibility

a. Situation

- person offends another person
- if adult offends child
- * better for offender to drown in ocean

- 2b. Christian duty
- Silence is not acceptable
 - Duty to rebuke offender
 - Attempt to bring other person to repentance
- c. Hopefully offender repents
- Christian duty to forgive
 - * only when offender repents
- d. Two of Jesus' Disciples
- Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus
 - * he did not repent
 - * Jesus did not forgive him (Jn 6:64, 13:11, Mt 27:3-10, Acts 1:25)
 - Peter denied Jesus
 - * Peter repented of his actions
 - * Jesus forgave him (Mk 16:7)
 - (Mt 26:34, Lk 22:61-62)
 - * Jesus restored him (Jn 21:15-17)
3. How Often to Forgive?
- a. Peter imagined that he was good man
- Mt 18:21 Forgive him 7 times?
- b. Jesus had higher standard
- Mt 18:22 Jesus said $70 \times 7 = 490$ give forgiveness
 - * most people cannot count 490 times
- c. If someone says "I repent" 7 times in single day
- Jesus says to forgive each time
4. Disciples Request
- a. Disciples feel overwhelmed
- "this is too much"
- b. They ask for help
- "Increase our faith"