

Pastor Jeff Williams

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“Road to Recovery” Part 6 – “Repairing Relationships”

The movie clip today was a story about a woman who suffered from alcoholism and was physically abusive toward her child. Just look at how many relationships have been affected and need repair just in that clip. There’s her relationship with herself, her self image. There’s her relationship with her daughter that has been hurt.

There’s her relationship with the nanny. Any time something like that happens, there are repercussions; there’s relationship damage in that marriage, all kinds of things that need repair. As we go through life, sometimes we are on the receiving end of those blows, and sometimes we are the one who gives those blows. It works both ways. Sometimes we’re the one who has caused a breach in a relationship, and other times we are the recipient of somebody else’s actions that have caused pain or hurt. We’re going to be talking about both ends of that perspective, both sides of the coin. What do we do when we’ve been hurt, and what do we do when we are the one who is the perpetrator of the hurt? There is a passage in the bible that deals with this subject of forgiveness and restoration. In Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 18, begin with the 21st verse. We’re going to read the entire passage together through the end of the chapter. Follow along in your bibles if you would please. “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” In other words, He’s saying, “Continual.” He’s not giving a mathematical equation. He’s saying, “We continually forgive.”

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.” By the way ten thousand talents in our money would be millions of dollars. “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. The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’” It’s an academy award-winning performance here.

“The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when the servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.” This is about one day’s wage. “He grabbed him and began to choke him, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.” They were greatly distressed, and they went and told their master everything that had happened.

“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 turned 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 from your heart.””

Let’s talk about that. This morning, we’re talking about repairing relationships: Road to Recovery, Part 6. For those of you taking notes, we’ve been going through the word “Recovery” and taking each letter from that word, with each letter having significance. This morning we talk about the “E” in Recovery. Step 6 is to *Evaluate all My Relationships, Offer forgiveness to those who’ve hurt me, make amends for harm I’ve done to others, except when to do so would harm those or others.* The scripture that we are using this morning, the scripture for this step, is found in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 4. Each step that we’ve had in this series has a corresponding scripture to it. The corresponding scripture is found in Ephesians, Chapter 4:31-32. It says, “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

So are you ready to do that? Ready to explore a little bit? Let’s ask for God’s help to do that, shall we? “Father as we come now to your word, there are so many things that we can apply this to, so many hurts we’ve experienced, so many times we’ve hurt others. In fact, in each of our lives, there is something in the background that we don’t go to very often. It’s dark, and it’s kind of scary. It’s our relational graveyard. If we were to take a walk through there, there are tombstones there with names on it of people that, for whatever reason, we have broken off relationship with; and as far as we are concerned, we are dead to them and them to us. Some of those graveyards have been there for a long time, Lord, those stones. Some of them are getting worn by the weather. We can hardly remember the faces or the voices anymore. Others in those graves are fresh. The soil there has just been turned. They’ve not been there long. Others we have the spade in the ground even as we speak. We are considering turning over the soil and digging the grave for another relationship. We pray that you would use this time this morning to work in our hearts, that we might be able to put down the shovel, we might be able to determine even to resurrect, with the help of God, a relationship that has ended and can be repaired. Those Lord that are sick and hurting, from those relationships that need minor adjustments to those who need resurrection, we ask for your help and guidance today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

You’re brave souls. This is dangerous stuff we’re talking about this morning, so let’s focus in on the job at hand. We’re going to be talking, first of all, about forgiving those who’ve hurt me. We’re going to be talking about the “why” and the several reasons why it’s important for us to forgive those who have wronged us in life. First of all, we forgive because God has forgiven us. You will never forgive more than God has already forgiven you. In this passage, this man owed such a great debt that in his lifetime, he could never repay it. Then he went and found a man who owed him just a little bit, and he refused to forgive. When he was brought before the king, the king said, “How in the world, when I have forgiven you of so much, could you turn around and hold unforgiveness for somebody for so little.”

You will never out-forgive God. That cross-Jesus Christ bore your sin for every sin you have ever committed, the sins you will commit today and every sin you will ever

commit tomorrow. All that we have to do to receive that forgiveness is ask. You will never forgive more than God has forgiven you.

In the Book of Colossians, Chapter 3:13 (Colossians is just two books over from Ephesians, where we just read), we find these words: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” That’s the example that He has provided for us.

Secondly, we forgive because resentment doesn’t work. Resentment is non-productive. In fact, resentment is counter-productive. Resentment doesn’t help the problem; it exacerbates the problem. Think of one person in your life or one experience in your life where resentment has helped you. Resentment complicates things. Resentment stirs the pot up. Resentment makes things that have been in the past as hurtful as if they have happened just now. It doesn’t correct the problem; it doesn’t change things for the better; it steals our joy, drains our energies, and it drains our emotion. If we’re not careful, it turns into bitterness which eats away at us like a cancer. It is a fact of science that many of our physical infirmities that we deal with can be directly traced back to emotional problems; emotional problems that are not dealt with in an appropriate manner can have physical consequences later on in life.

Thirdly, I forgive because I’m going to need forgiveness in the future. If you’re taking notes, I want you to write this down because it’s a spiritual principle. You cannot receive, according to God’s law, what you are unwilling to give. You will not receive from God what you are unwilling to give. Forgiveness in the bible is a two-way street. You know the Lord’s prayer that we always say, all of us at various times have said the Lord’s prayer, if we could turn there in Matthew, Chapter 6, and read the words of Jesus as He finishes that prayer, what does He say? Let’s turn to Matthew, Chapter 6:14. “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

That’s a scary passage. You want to receive forgiveness from God? You better learn to be a forgiver. You’re not going to receive from God that which you’re unwilling to give. The scripture says if we don’t do that, we end up being tormented. What did it say in the end of Matthew 18? It said that man, that unforgiving servant was handed over to the tormenters.

In our life, what torments us? Resentment. Bitterness. Anger. Strife. When we choose to hold onto resentments instead of choosing to forgive, we become a prisoner of those memories and those actions. Those things torment us; that’s what Jesus meant when He said, “And so shall God do to you.” God will allow those tormenters to torment you until you make things right in your heart. It’s an important passage, an important understanding for us to have. Forgiveness is a two-way street. You need to forgive because you will need forgiveness in the future.

Secondly, I want to talk this morning about the “how.” We talked about the “why.” The why is that there are consequences. Those consequences are severe. It’s going to hurt us spiritually. It’s going to hurt us emotionally. It’s going to be non-productive. It’s going to hinder our spiritual walk. It’s just like tomorrow morning, your alarm is going to go off, and it’s going to be time to go to work. Some of your alarms are going to go off at 4 in the morning, 5 in the morning. Some are going to

go off at 7 in the morning. You bankers' alarms are going to go off at 8 in the morning, but everybody's alarm is going to go off in the morning. Some of you are going to roll out of bed and go, "Yippie! Yippie skippie! Another day!" and you'll get all excited. You'll say, "Oh Lord, it's morning!" Some of you will go "Uhhgghh...Lord, it's morning...Oh man!" You're going to be thinking about a deadline you have to meet or a person you have to confront, just going through the routine of another day. There's going to be consequences. Some of you are tempted, I'll be honest, to stay in bed. Some of you are going to say, "Do I feel good? Am I hot? Maybe I'm hot; maybe my throat hurts a little bit. Yeah, maybe it does." You want to go shopping or just stay home and relax.

If you do that too many days, what's going to happen? You're going to get fired. You students, you don't go to school, you're going to get bad grades and flunk. There are consequences, so what do you do? You roll out of bed. You roll into the shower. You wake up a little bit and face your day, right? You let your *will* dictate to you your behavior, not your *emotions*. If your emotions dictated your behavior, you'd stay in bed. You'd skip school; you'd skip work, but you know there are consequences to pay. This whole mess of stuff of broken relationships: emotionally we might say, "I don't want to deal with that. That's messy. That's ugly." It takes a lot of work, so our emotions might just say, "Skip it." Let it go. Hold onto the resentment a little longer. Deal with it later.

God says, "Don't let the sun go down upon your wrath." He says, "Deal with it now." So the "how" has much to do with our wills. Forgiveness really is an act of your will and not an act of your emotion. We do things everyday that are acts of our will and not acts of our emotions. It doesn't make you a hypocrite; it makes you smart. It makes you wise. Often our emotions and our wills don't line up. I'm going to talk about three things, three "Rs:" Reveal, Release, and Replace. How do I forgive? First of all, I reveal my hurt. Reveal your hurt, be honest about it. Don't say "that doesn't hurt" when it does. Don't say "I've forgiven a person" when you haven't. Be open and honest-reveal your hurt to another person. That's really key.

I don't know how many times I have sat in a counseling session and heard someone say as they start to recall something from the past, "Well, I've forgiven them." And then as they go on, you can just hear in their voices their anger and their resentment. Their voice rises a little bit, and you can see some tears start to come. You say, "Time out. You're telling me you've forgiven them, but your body language is saying there is a lot of work yet to be done." I'm not saying we're not going to hurt. This little girl, in our media clip, who was slapped in the face, she's going to grow up, and when she's 30 or 40 years old, she'll remember that. It's always going to hurt, but forgiveness is being able to think about it and not have that hate toward her mom.

To be able to release and pray for her mom, because even though that was a fictitious Hollywood story, that's happened in real life to people sitting right here this morning. That was a painful clip for you to watch. That brought back some very painful memories. When you've forgiven, you're able to release that. I'm getting ahead of myself in my notes here, so I'm going to go back to my notes. That's what they're here for.

So don't say you've forgiven when you haven't. Don't say it doesn't hurt when it does. Don't say you're over it if you're not. *Reveal*. Make a list of those you've harmed or those who've harmed you and say what they said or thought or did. If you're taking notes, write this down. There is no closure without disclosure. That's a big word we talk about-Closure. I want to get closure on the matter. There's no closure without disclosure. Some of us who are helpers either lay counselors or professional counselors, sometimes we actually aid in that denial. Somebody will come up to us and say, "You know, I failed. I hurt and I failed." And thinking we're trying to help, thinking we're being a friend, we'll say, "No you haven't. No you haven't. You haven't done anything wrong. It's okay." The truth is they did fail. Instead I need to say, "You know what? It's brave that you would admit that. It takes a lot of courage for you to admit that." Or sometimes you say, "Your parents did the best they could." No they didn't. Nobody does. We all make mistakes. Nobody can do the best they can all the time. Let's be honest about our mistakes. Let's be honest about our past. Let's be honest about the shortcomings. There's no closure unless there's disclosure. That's Step #1.

Secondly, release my offender. I release my offender. I reveal my hurt, and I release my offender. That's the definition of forgiveness by the way. Biblically speaking, if you want to define forgiveness, it means to release from a debt. What did the parable of the unforgiving servant say; the king says, "I released you of your debt. I forgave you your debt. I released you." That's what it means.

We've always bannered around different definitions of forgiveness. Well, forgiveness means you forgive, but you don't forget, and all different kinds of definitions. Literally, forgiveness means to release from a debt. So I *release* that. It's a continual thing. It's not a one-shot deal.

Peter said to Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus said, "Seventy seven." In other words, it's a continual thing for two reasons. Number one, because the offense may reoccur. It may happen again, and the same steps apply.

Secondly, it's continual because even though by an act of my will, I may have forgiven, there are still emotions attached to that, and they can resurface from time to time. Every time they resurface, you have to do it again. I don't care if it's 300 times. Every time those feelings of resentment come back, you have to let your will take over. You say, "I've forgiven that person. I've released that person. I am free from anger and bitterness and unforgiveness." I don't care if you have to do it 300 times, release that. "Continual," Jesus says. It's not a one-time shot. Release the offender by an act of your will.

Sometimes you do that in person, face to face, when it's appropriate. We'll talk about that. Other times when it's not appropriate or possible, you do whatever works. Some people have tried the "empty chair technique" where they sit an empty chair in front of you. Make sure you're by yourself, so nobody thinks you're crazy. Maybe that person is deceased, or maybe it's not appropriate for you to contact that person. You speak to them as if they're there. You release them. Or you can write a letter releasing them that you never send. You can burn it up or throw it away. Or you say in a prayer to God and release that person. Because in releasing them,

you free yourself. There are consequences for obedience too, and those are good consequences. Those are pleasurable consequences.

Number three is to *replace my hurt with God's peace*. If you're taking notes, peace is a bi-product of obedience to God. If you pursue peace, you're probably not going to find it. If you work hard to find peace, you're probably going to miss it. But if you will seek in your life to obey God, you will find an inner-peace that you can't find anywhere else in life or in doing any other thing. Peace is the bi-product of obeying God. I know I have the peace from God when I can obey what he commands. In Matthew 6:44, He says, "Love your enemies, pray for those who hurt you." There is probably not a verse in all the bible that is harder than that one. Jesus is taking this whole thing to another step, a whole other level. He's not just saying forgive them, but never think about it again.

If I had my choice, I'd think, "If I have to forgive, I'll forgive, but I don't want to ever think about him/her again." We're going to be honest. Jesus takes it to another level, He says, "Love them." It means seek their highest and best. "Love them. Pray for those who hurt you."

Pray for them? You've got to be kidding me. I want to nuke them! Well, if that's how you feel, then the process is still at work in your life. You're not there yet. You'll know you have the peace of God in this matter, and you'll know you have healing in this matter when you can do what Jesus says here, when you can pray for them. Some of you who've worked through the forgiveness process, what you've said is your anger and rage turned to pity. You actually begin to grieve for this person, the state of mind they must've been in when they hurt you the way they did, the way that they've been through in their life that has made them the way they are. You'll know that you have the peace of God when you can do that, when you can wish the highest and best in their life and you can pray for them. When you're able to do that without feeling "ahhhh!" you'll know that you have the peace of God in that situation and that you have truly forgiven them.

I want to talk about the "why." The why is making amends to those I've hurt, that's the second part of our equation. We talked about forgiving those who've hurt me. Secondly, we want to talk about making amends to those I've hurt. Why? Real simple. It prevents recovery. We're all in this thing. To recover together, why is it important to make amends? Because when I fail to make amends, that's going to keep mentioning those hurts and habits in my life. It's going to keep them around. It's going to prevent recovery from taking place. In the book of Hebrews, Chapter 12:15, according to the Living version, it says, "Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you for as it springs up, it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." He says watch out, there's danger. That's the why.

Let's talk about the "how." First of all, make a list of those that I've harmed. Write it out. Make the list just like we did with those who've hurt us. We make a list of those who've I've harmed. Some of you are saying, "I can think of a lot of people who've hurt me, but I really haven't hurt that many people. A lot of people have done me wrong, but when we talk about making amends with those I've hurt, I don't think I've hurt that many people." Okay. Let me talk to you for a second about that. Anybody that you have any money you owe? Anybody you've ever broke a promise to? Anybody that you've guilted into controlling them or

manipulated them in one way or another through the promise of pleasure or pain or the withholding of pleasure or through guilt? Anyone that you've ever been over-possessive of? Anyone that you've been hypercritical of that has caused them pain? Anybody that you've been abusive to, verbally, emotionally, or physically? Anybody that you've hurt through something that you've forgotten or omitted to do? Anybody you've been unfaithful to, one way or another, or betrayed a confidence in one way or another? Anybody you've been dishonest with in one way or another? Should I stop or go on? Maybe this applies to us today.

First of all, I make a list of those who I've harmed and those who I've hurt. Secondly, I think of how I'd like others to make amends to me. How would you like others to make amends to you? That's probably how you should make amends to them. Don't just burst through their boundaries and say, "I wanna make amends! And you're going to listen to what I have to say because we've been on a sermon in our church, Road to Recovery, and I've hurt you, and you're going to listen." Nope, that isn't going to work. First of all, you make amends on their time. You're the one that's hurt them. So we schedule the amends around them, not you. It should be done privately, discreetly, and when they're ready for it. You come to somebody and say, "I feel like I need to make an amends with you." They say, "I'm not ready, not at this time." Don't try to barge through their boundaries, respect that. Timing is very important. I see this one get broken a lot. Somebody tries to do the right thing at the wrong time, and the person just isn't ready, and it pushes them even further away. Secondly, the right attitude. When you go in to make amends with somebody, you focus on you. You're focusing on you. You're saying, "This is what I've done or this is what I've said that has hurt you, and I want you to know I'm asking for your forgiveness. Now, you say it back to me." No. That's not what we're talking about. When you come in with the right spirit, an amends-kind of spirit, you come in saying, "This is what I have done that has wronged you." If they don't give anything back in return, if they don't say, "I'm sorry too" or "Forgive me for my part," you're going to get your part done. That's the right attitude. That's the right spirit we're talking about.

You're not coming in to win the argument and to see them beg. You're coming in to say, "Look, I'm owning this. I did this, and I'm sorry." Whether they reciprocate is not the concern with one who is truly making amends. They may look back at you and say, "You're right. You are 100 percent of the problem. It's all your fault." Press some buttons, they may do that. But you need to own what you've done, so you come with the right attitude, not a defensive posture of humility because we all make mistakes. We say, "Look, this is what I did, and I'm sorry. I'm going to try to the best of my ability not to repeat that same problem again." Sometimes, we need to make restitution if possible. We say, "This is what I did, and it caused you this amount of pain" or "This is what I took from you, and I'm giving it back to you." The chances are-the bigger the offense, the less likely you're going to be able to make restitution for it. There are some things, some hurts, that we can cause that is so big and so severe that all we can say is "I'm sorry." There's just no way to return what we've taken from them.

I was watching a report on 20/20 or Primetime about this man who was a serial rapist. He'd raped many different women. They finally caught him. There's no way

he can make restitution for his victims, for what he had done to them. It was a random act of violence. He didn't know the person. He was just carrying out his hatred. As they were talking to her (one of the victims) before she went into the trial. It was a very sensitive moment in her life as she was going to have to confront her violator. She broke down in tears in front of the camera and said, "If I could just hear the words, 'I'm sorry.'" She said, "That would help me so much, if I could just hear him say those words." And he did, and when he did that in the courtroom, when it was all said and done, she broke down in tears. She said, "You know, that doesn't make everything better, that doesn't make the past go away, but it really helps with my healing." Sometimes that's all we can do is say, "I don't know if you can accept this or not, and I know I can't pay back what I've hurt you or what I've taken from you, but I want you to know from the bottom of my heart with nothing expected in return, I am sorry for what I have done."

Proverbs 12:18 says, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Thirdly, *refocus my life*. By the way, I better go back just a little bit before we hit this one. There's a word of caution in this step if you remember. It says to make amends accept when to do so would injure them or others. Remember that part of the step? That's a really important part, and I really don't want to just glaze over. I think we need to talk about that a little. Sometimes by correcting a problem, we can make things worse in our correction. On the light side, I read about a newspaper that had corrected itself. Many times when a newspaper corrects itself, it can almost be more harmful than the original error. The newspaper had said, "We mispronounced the name of the chairman of Chrysler Corporation when we listed his name as Lee IaCookoo. The newspaper regrets that error. His name is Lee Iacaca." True story, so it makes things worse sometimes. It's really Lee Iacocca if you're interested. Some of our kids might not know that.

To just give you an example, sometimes the question we need to ask ourselves is "Is it appropriate?" We talk about the timing of the matter, we talked about the attitude of the matter, but it's important to talk about the appropriateness of the matter. Is it appropriate? Maybe you had an affair, and there's been some healing, and your marriage is beginning to feel like there are still some things that need to be said, and there are still some things that need to be done to bring closure in this relationship. Sometimes, that can be just a ploy to get back in contact with that other person. That's a time you need to draw the line. That's inappropriate contact. That's "empty chair" stuff. That's letter writing that we throw away. If somebody is married, go back in that relationship and try to fix that mess, that's inappropriate. It needs not to be shared in certain contexts, certain circumstances. Secondly, I heard an example of something on Dr. Laura. Have you ever listened to Dr. Laura on the radio if you're in the car, Dr. Laura Schlessinger? She's a psychologist who has a radio program. Normally, if I'm in the car, I'm listening to something, not real spiritual; I listen to a sports radio station out of Chicago. I've been studying and praying, and I'm probably not going to flip a tape in the car and turn on Christian radio. I'm going to talk about Bears and Bulls and Cubs and all of those things. One day I happened to turn on Dr. Laura. Dr. Laura was speaking with a daughter, and this daughter had been molested through her father, and she

didn't know about it. Then later on in life, as an adult, he came back, and he disclosed to them, "Listen, when you were little, I did this and I did that." She said, "It just tore me up." She had no recollection or knowledge. That was inappropriate disclosure. That was the wrong way to do it. That injured that family. That did much more harm than good. If somebody comes up to you, at the wrong time, in an inappropriate manner and says, "I want you to know something...I gossiped about you and I hated you, and I did this and did that. Please forgive me. I went around telling everybody what a dog you were, and I just wanted to say I've heard that message this morning, and I'm sorry. I love you in the love of the Lord. I feel so much better." You are thinking, "Ohhhh!" Now you need recovery as they go singing on their way. There's an appropriate time, an appropriate place, and an appropriate way.

Thirdly, *refocus my life on doing God's will* in that relationship beginning today. I'm doing God's will in my relationships beginning today. Refocus. If you're taking notes, as long as you focus on somebody you resent, you are allowing that person to control you. It's the truth. As long as you focus on a person you resent, you allow them to control you. As long as you focus on that event from the past, that event from the past controls you. If you resent long enough and you focus long enough, you will start to resemble them because what you focus on, you become. You might not like to hear that, but there are people that say, "I'm never going to be like my dad or my mom." And guess who they're like? "I'm never going to do to my kids what they did to me," and they focus on that for so many years, guess what they do? They end up repeating the same mistakes. What you focus on, you become. Put your focus on Christ. Put your focus on His word and His promises, and keep it there, and you will become Christ-like. You will become, over time, a forgiving person; a person who seeks to make peace whenever possible; a person who reconciles; a person who makes amends; a person who respects the boundaries of others. It will happen. You have to learn lessons in life the hard way, it's true. One of the things we learn in life is-what we focus on, we become. Focus on Christ, and He will change you.

Would you join me in prayer right now?

"Father, thank you for the things that you've taught us this morning concerning forgiving and being forgiven. Like the words of the song that we heard this morning, on the slide, forgive me, forgive you. Forgive me because I am an offender. Forgive you because you have offended as well. It's a two-way street Lord. I pray that you help all of us who have heard this message to apply the things we've heard, that we will go over those principles again until we know them. That we will look up those appropriate scriptures, that we will refocus our minds, thoughts, and intentions, not upon resentments, not upon the people who've hurt us in the past or the crimes they have done to us, but we will refocus upon you and upon your word. We will focus that we might be free, that those people and those situations no longer control us, and we are not controlled by them. We want to be controlled by you. We're going to need supernatural help. We're going to need supernatural grace to be able to do this, especially when it comes to praying for those who are enemies, praying for those who've hurt us, seeking their highest and best. That's commitment on a new level for many of us. But Lord, we can come to that point. We can come to

that point through forgiveness that we have released those people from their debt, and in doing so, we release ourselves. I pray that all of us would make a new commitment to forgiving those who've hurt us and seeking the forgiveness of those we've hurt, and that we would do so in a timely manner and an appropriate manner. We pray for your wisdom in this area, and we thank you for the fruit that will come from it. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.