

THE BIG "IF" #4

Kenny Luck

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. LUKE 4:1-13 NIV

I WIN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE BY...

_____ THE WORD OF GOD
_____ THE WORD OF GOD
_____ THE WORD OF GOD
_____ THE WORD OF GOD

"The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip." Psalm 37:30-31 NASB

THE BIG "IF"... JESUS ON FORGIVENESS

"Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart." Matthew 18:23-35 NLT

FORGIVENESS INVOLVES _____.

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“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”
Matthew 18:26-27

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“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.” Matthew 18:28-30

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“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.’” Matthew 18:31-32

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“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.” Matthew 18:35

THE BATTLE TO FORGIVE

“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32 NLT

“Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.” Heb. 12:14-15 NLT

FOR DISCUSSION

HAS GOD’S WORD (THE BIBLE) EVER HELPED YOU OVERCOME A MOMENT OF TEMPTATION RECENTLY? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS VERBALLY SPOKE GOD’S WORD DIRECTLY AT/INTO THE SUGGESTIONS TO COMPROMISE COMING AT HIM?

WHY IS AUTHENTIC, HEART FELT FORGIVENESS SO DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE?

WHICH ASPECT OF WHAT “FORIGVENESS MEANS” RESONATED WITH YOU? WHY?

REMEMBERING THE MAGNITUDE OF MY DEBT
RECOGNIZING WHAT IS TRULY NEEDED
REPEATING WHAT GOD HAS MODELED

RESISTING FEELINGS AND ACTING IN FAITH
REALIZING THE DESTRUCTION I WILL BRING
RELEASING THE PERSON FROM THE HEART

IS THERE SOMEONE (DEAD OR ALIVE) THAT YOU NEED TO FORGIVE FROM THE HEART FOR HURTING OR WOUNDING YOU UNFAIRLY?

CLOSE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER TOGETHER... “Our father, who art in Heaven, holy is your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.”