

— THE — POWER OF STORY

Part 4

Let It Go

This past Sunday Pastor Ken continued *The Power of Story*. During this series we invite you to look with us at the power of story to change us. Jesus' parables can help us to understand and put into practice our faith. Meet with someone at work, your family, or find a place to do it alone or with a friend. Let's grow and do life together during this series.

Now when a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable. Luke 8:4

1. We live in a broken world with broken people who will do or say things that hurt you and we must learn to be forgiving people by not holding on to the wrongs in our spirit and soul that happen to us (read Matthew 18:21-35). Is there something that you need to let go of?
2. When you refuse to forgive, it torments you and carrying around hostility and bitterness damages your body. It also messes up the fellowship you have with God. As we practice grace, mercy, and love by letting go of wrongs, it can even take away loneliness. One author has said to forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you. Are you ready to walk out of that social prison and into freedom?
3. Ask God to give you the grace to do what you could never do on your own. Here are three steps you can take. First, decide to get rid of it like the scapegoat in Scripture (read Leviticus 16:10). Forgiveness is a decision to release the wrong that was done and send it away. Second, refuse to strike back or you will get stuck in a cycle of hurt. Give up your right to strike back and turn it over to God (read Deuteronomy 32:35 and Romans 12:17-18).
4. The last step is to respond in the opposite spirit (read Romans 12:20). Do not let others control what you do. Instead, do something positive and bless them. Is there someone that you need to forgive or maybe respond to in the opposite spirit?

Close in prayer