

Part 4: Forgive Us, As We Forgive ***Pastor Tom Kang***

Ice Breaker: What's a task, project, or conversation you never finished that still pops into your head years later?

1. The Zeigarnik Effect: unpaid, unresolved things stay loud in your head, and settled things go quiet. What's something "loud" in your head right now, something done to you or something you did? Does it feel more like a debt you owe or a debt you're owed?

2. Peter thought forgiving someone seven times was generous; Jesus said seventy-seven (Matthew 18:21-22, ESV) as a way of saying "if you're counting, it doesn't count." Who are you still keeping count with? What would it take to stop?

3.Ten thousand talents is over 150,000 years of wages, a number so big it's a joke (Matthew 18:24, ESV). Why do you think Jesus wanted the crowd to laugh at the impossibility before they felt the weight of it? When did you first realize your own debt before God wasn't payable?

4. The servant's response to an infinite debt was "have patience with me, and I will pay you everything" (Matthew 18:26, ESV). Pastor Tom called this the epitome of "religion." Where does the Payment Plan show up in your life: "I'll serve more, I'll go to church more, I'll do better"? What's the difference between gratitude that serves and guilt that pays?

5. Read Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV) together, where Paul says God canceled "the record of debt that stood against us ... nailing it to the cross." Luther wrote that the Christian is at the same time righteous and a sinner (simul justus et peccator). How do you hold both truths at once: the record was real, and the record is gone?

6. The men in the Florida prison woke up in the same cells but sang like free men. Psalm 32:1-2 (ESV) says, "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven ... against whom the LORD counts no iniquity." Are you living, serving, and worshiping like someone whose debt is cancelled, or like someone still on a Payment Plan? What would the people closest to you say?

7. "People who think they don't have enough hoard. People who think they're still in debt collect." Pastor Tom connected this week's scarcity to last week's bread. Where do you see the link between not feeling forgiven and not being able to forgive in your own story?

8. Pastor Tom said forgiveness is instant and based on grace; trust is rebuilt over time and based on behavior. Romans 12:18 (ESV) says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Where have you confused the two, either refusing to forgive because you can't trust, or rushing to trust because you felt you had to forgive?