

SERMON STUDY NOTES

2nd June 2019

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

The Pardon Test

1. In your own words, describe what it means to pardon, or forgive, someone.
2. When we will not forgive, “we will live to prove something rather than to please someone.” Describe a time (in general) when you have observed someone change the course of their life by refusing to release another person. How did this statement prove to be true?
3. We don’t forgive someone for being right. That’s why it can be so difficult to forgive. What, in particular, do you find especially difficult to forgive (eg betrayal)
4. What is wrong with requiring an apology or confession before being willing to forgive someone (Romans 12:19, Leviticus 19:18)?
5. How are receiving forgiveness from God and extending pardon to others related?

6. The Bible says that because of His holiness, God can't even look upon wickedness. It also says that His eyes are always on the righteous. We were all born sinful. Why can God keep His eyes on us now? (See Ps 103:12, Isaiah 53:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)
7. When we refuse to forgive, we fail the Pardon Test. What are we essentially communicating to God when we refuse to forgive others?
8. In groups of two or three, take a few minutes to tell God how much you have needed Him to pardon you. thank Him that He has forgiven you fully and freely.
9. Now, in response to the forgiveness God has given you, tell Him that you choose to forgive _____. (Name the relationship or circumstance that He brings to mind.

Do not specifically name the person or circumstance, but keep it general. You can pray about it specifically in private.) Ask Him to help you release it fully and freely, leaving justice to Him in this relationship or situation.

In addition to prayerfully thanking God for His pardon and choosing to extend that towards others, pray for any specific needs represented in the group.