

He Gets Us.

Jesus knows how to do the healing work, so I make amends.

June 12, 2022 Message Notes

TEXT: PROVERBS 14:9, LUKE 15:18

Making amends is a critical part of someone's healing, but amends is not buying forgiveness, salvaging a guilty conscience, paying a debt or fixing what is broken. The Bible offers guidance on what to do when an offense takes place, and Jesus models the quality of forgiveness that redeems in situations that deserve apology and amends.



NOTES

Step 9: Make direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.

Jesus knows how to do the healing work, so I make amends that heal.

We don't and won't participate in doing further harm, but we do and will be part of the healing process.

Step 8 doesn't call you to do anything except make a list and, in reflecting on your connection and cause in the harm done, become *willing* to make amends.

The Bible assumes we will offend and be offended by each other. It also offers guidance on what to do when it happens.

“When a man or woman wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the Lord, that person is guilty and must confess the sin he has committed. He must make full restitution for his wrong, add one fifth to it and give it to the person he has wronged.”

NUMBERS 5:5-8

“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor and if I've cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” – Zacchaeus

LUKE 19:8 NIV

Jesus helps people find the *Amends* department.

“Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.”

PROVERBS 14:9 NIV

Amends is not buying forgiveness, salvaging a guilty conscience, paying your debt or fixing what you broke.

Only the mercy and blood of Jesus can go deep enough to meet us in the pain and suffering of loss, cleanse our real guilt, free our hearts to true healing and help us be agents of healing.

Amends gives opportunity to show remorse – a change of mind, a change of direction and a change of behavior. It has a way of making an apology more real.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

1 JOHN 3:18 NIV



“Love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love doesn’t delight in evil but rejoices in truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:5-7 NIV

Jesus knows how to do the healing work, so I make amends that heal.

There are different levels of harm:

- Emotional and personal
- Social and public
- Material
- Criminal and traumatic

All harm involves the loss of trust.

Jesus models the quality of forgiveness that redeems in situations that deserve apology and amends.

“Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing.”

LUKE 23:34 NIV

Forgiveness isn’t transactional. To Jesus, it is transformational.

Jesus forgave before, and in the absence of, an apology on the cross.

Forgiveness is the spiritual medicine and currency we are to use on ourselves and others so we don't get stuck in the muck of pain and resentment.

Offering amends shouldn't place the offended in harm's way again.

“I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’”

LUKE 15:18-19 NIV

1. I admit my error and the pain caused.
2. I show remorse that feels the cost of the loss.
3. I ask if there is anything I can do to help work things out.

“Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you – for their sin in treating you so cruelly. Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. Look, we are your slaves.”



GENESIS 50:17-18 NLT

Who is on your list? Have you become willing yet?

- Write out your apology and amends. Do it with a mentor.
- Pray through it.
- Review your words.
- Say them out loud, feel them.
- Admit your errors.
- Own the pain and suffering caused.
- Ask if there is anything you can do.

Make direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.

Jesus knows how to do the healing work, so I make amends that heal.

If you are on the receiving end of the offense, like Jesus on the cross, don't wait until they come to let forgiveness begin its healing work in you.

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.”

1 PETER 4:8 NIV

Forgiveness de-thorns the root of bitterness that entangles so many in culture today.

Apology and amends are freedom keys for healing and mental peace of mind.

“Forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

EPHESIANS 4:32 NIV

