

**“Love Revealed to Forgive Sins”**  
 Message 3 in the series, “Love Revealed”  
 Matthew 1:18-25

**TODAY'S MAIN IDEA:**

Only the \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_.

**GENUINE FORGIVENESS IS...**

Something that you \_\_\_\_\_ when you realize that, at the \_\_\_\_\_, you are \_\_\_\_\_ with the person who offended you - in your mutual need for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES...**

**Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, **for he will save his people from their sins.**” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**FOR GROW GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

1. What do you think of the idea that forgiveness blends both judgment and compassion?
2. Asking for forgiveness makes us vulnerable to the person we have offended. Have you ever sensed the vulnerability that comes along with seeking – or offering -- forgiveness?
3. Some relationships cannot be restored, but forgiveness is still mandated
5. Read Matthew 1:18-25 again out loud. How would you have felt if you were in Joseph’s shoes (or sandals)? What do you think he felt? Why do you think he did what he did?
6. In what ways was Joseph living out forgiveness? As you’ve listened to the message or as you read the Scripture passages, what is God bringing to your mind and heart? What do you want to do about it?