TRUE IMAGES
PODCAST

EPISODE 8: THE MINISTRY OF FORGIVENESS

MEDITATION ON SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 10:16-18 "The Lord is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. Lord, you have heard the desire of the humble; you will strengthen their hearts. You will listen carefully, doing justice for the fatherless and the oppressed
so that mere humans from the earth may terrify them no more."

Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What part of this conversation makes you uncomfortable?

What part of forgiving abusers feels the most complicated for you?

How do you feel the Church can validate, protect, and dignify survivors while navigating a topic like forgiveness?

What are unhelpful ways of discussing forgiveness that hurt survivors and enable abusers?

Does the ministry of restoration for abusers make you feel uncomfortable and if so, why?

How do we distinguish between forgiving someone like Jesus does and granting them continued access to our lives, positions of power, or ministries?

RECCOMENDED READING & LISTENING:

Books: Bold Love by Dan Allender

Podcasts: What Forgiveness Is and Isn't (The Lord's Prayer Pt. 4) - The BibleProject Episode

NOTES/QUESTIONS:

(Write your own thoughts or questions here)

PRAYER:

God, we come before You today with heavy hearts, acknowledging the pain that exists when trust is broken within Your Church. We thank You for the courage of those who boldy walk into the ministry of forgiveness. We ask for those who are currently walking through spiritual hurt and recovery from abuse. Grant them the grace to forgive as You have forgiven us, but also the wisdom to seek safety and uphold the standards of integrity You have set for Your people. Let us always be emboldened to stand up for survivors, for the hurting, broken, and abused. Let us never compromise their safety or dignity for our comfort. Help us to be a people who do not look away from the uncomfortable, but instead, look toward scripture for the path to true flourishing.
In Jesus's name, Amen.