

An Exploration of Forgiveness – Lent 2015

Week 3: If forgiveness is related specifically to the realities of sin then one has to ask the question why we so often speak of the “problem” of forgiveness. After all, forgiveness undoes the tangled web created by sin. What is the origin of this pervasive belief or practice captured in this common phrase: I just can’t forgive him, her, myself!

In some very real sense forgiveness is seen as a negative, interestingly, almost as a diminishment which is what sin does!! Part of it may be due to forgiveness traditionally being connected to punishment...if someone is not punished then forgiveness can’t be granted. Interestingly, does that mean that our own sin can’t be forgiven until we are punished??

This week’s Conversation continues:

Please describe what the experience of forgiveness-as-problem has been like for you:

Tear off your responses and place them in the offertory basket...no names please! I will carefully read your responses and use them to guide our continued exploration.