

Series: **GENEROUS**

Title: Just as I am

Speaker: Bob Marvel

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Generous – the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Matthew 18:2. I would love to have seen the expression on Andrew’s face when he hears his brother Peter ask that question. The idea of generously forgiving others raises not only the bar as we follow Jesus, it also raises plenty of difficult questions.

1. The word for forgiveness (in Matthew 18:21) is actually the same root word for divorce in the next chapter (Matthew 19:3). It’s the word “to release”. What do these two significantly different choices have in common? How would thinking about the meaning of divorce actually help us to forgive?
 2. Isn’t forgiving someone over-and-over-again giving them permission to keep doing the same thing? Isn’t that minimizing?
 3. Stephen was a key leader and the first martyr of the church. What stands out to you from his story in Acts 6:1-15, 51-60?
 4. How do you get to the point where you can pray for the people who are in the act of killing you?
 5. What collateral blessing came Stephen’s death? How can the worst thing that happens to someone become a platform for ministry and kingdom expansion?
 6. Looking at Matthew 6:12, Ephesians 4:32, and Colossians 3:13, how does God expect us to forgive others?
 7. How does the hymn “Just as I am” relate to this story of forgiveness?
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8. If you haven't seen the Brandt Jean video on forgiving the woman who murdered his brother, here is the link. Look at the judge at the end of the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkoE_GQsbNA
9. Why can we say the greatest beneficiary is the benefactor?
10. How can you put this kind of generosity into practice?