



Touching Lives  
with James Merritt





# Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

## Start At The Epicenter

*Faults | 1 John 1:9*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Are you quick to confess your sin when you mess up, or do you hesitate to talk to God about your mistakes?
2. Have you ever felt like God was holding a grudge against you for your sin?
3. What is an unconfessed sin that you haven't talked to God about yet? Take the time to confess that sin to Him right now.

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**Seismic Shift**

*Faults | 2 Corinthians 7*

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. In your own words, how would you differentiate regret and repentance?
2. When you do something wrong, are you typically more upset that you got caught, or that you broke God's heart with your sin?
3. Is there a sin you need to repent of in your own life right now?

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**Planting Your Feet**

*Faults | Psalm 32:1-5*

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. What is a sin that took you a while to recognize, but now you realize is a sin?
2. Do you struggle with accepting God's forgiveness for your sins? If so, why?
3. Do you find it hard to forgive yourself when you make a mistake? Why or why not?

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**Surviving The Big One**

*Faults | Matthew 18*

**INTRODUCTION**

How do you repair a relationship when you are not the one who ruptured it? It is not me. It is you that broke this. It is not us. It is them that caused the problem. In other words, we are going to answer the tough question, "What do you do when you are not the one that needs to get forgiveness, but the one who needs to give forgiveness." For many of us, that is going to be a much tougher thing to do, because it is easier to seek forgiveness than it is to show forgiveness. It is easier to ask for it than it is to give it. C.S. Lewis wisely said, "Everybody thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive." When someone has offended us, someone has hurt us, someone has sinned against us, and it is their fault, we are going to see what God has to say about why we are the ones that should take the first step and how we are to do it.

**KEY POINTS**

**1. Be Willing To Confront Personally**

When somebody offends you there is one of two ways you can deal with it. You can overlook it, or you can confront it. And while there are times it's best to just overlook an issue, there are also times when confrontation is necessary. When we have an issue with someone that needs to be addressed, we are to go. We don't have the right not to confront someone that has sinned against us. Even though you are not the one who broke it, Jesus said you are the one that should take the initiative to try and fix it. Understand that when someone hurts you, offends you, or sins against you, you don't think about it. You don't pray about it and you don't talk about it. You go to that person personally and tell them.

**2. Be Willing To Confront Privately**

Confrontation is for the purpose of rescue, not retribution. You are not trying to win an argument; you are trying to win a brother. You are not trying to avenge a wrong. You are trying to restore a relationship.

**NOTES**

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**Surviving The Big One**

*Faults | Matthew 18*

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How do you typically handle confrontation? Are you quick to confront or do you often sweep things under the rug?
2. When was a time you should have confronted someone but didn't? How did that situation pan out? What would you do differently if you could go back?
3. Is there someone you need to confront in your life right now but you've been hesitant to do so?

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## Shockproof

Faults | Ephesians 4

### INTRODUCTION

Forgiveness must always be the rule of the day between two followers of Jesus Christ. Both the offended party and the offending party have a biblical responsibility to heal the relationship and to restore what has been ruptured. Now we are going to get into the nitty-gritty of the process of forgiveness itself. It is one thing to know that you need to forgive. It is one thing to know that you want to forgive, but it is an entirely different thing to get to the point where you do forgive. I will warn you though the steps are simple the steps are difficult. But this is the one thing to remember: I must choose to forgive others just as God has forgiven me.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Eliminate Bitterness

Paul's advice is real simple. If you have any bitter feelings toward somebody – get rid of them. Are you still mad and upset at someone, because of what they did to you? Stop it. You may be thinking to yourself, “Well, that is easy for Paul to say” when it really wasn't, because when Paul wrote these words he was sitting in a Roman cell unjustly incarcerated, unfairly treated and eventually would lose his life for telling the truth. Yet, you could look through a microscope or a telescope and find no bitterness, no rage, and no unresolved anger in his heart.

Well you say, “Paul is just a lot more spiritual than I am.” It is not just a matter of being spiritual; it is a matter of being smart. What do I mean by that? Bitterness is an acid that eats its own container. It is a cancer that destroys its own body. Somebody said bitterness is like drinking poison and then waiting for the other person to die.

Your bitterness has absolutely no effect on the person you are bitter toward. When you are bitter towards someone, you are thinking about that someone, but that someone is not thinking about you. Does your bitterness ever keep you up at night? They are sleeping like a baby. Does your bitterness ever give you indigestion? They are eating like a pig. The problem with bitterness is it grows, and it controls, and it consumes, which is why we must eliminate it.

### NOTES

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# Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

## **Shockproof**

*Faults | Ephesians 4*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Do you struggle with harboring bitterness? Are you harboring bitterness against someone right now?
2. When was a time someone forgave you for something that you didn't think they'd forgive you for? How did that make you feel?
3. Put yourself in Dawn Smith Jordan's shoes: would you have had trouble forgiving the way she did? If so, why do you think that is?

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