

 Episode 2: Even the Bully deserves love

Welcome to *WisdomGuru*—
where the hard things of life meet the light of God's love.
Here, we talk honestly, heal deeply,
and remember—
even in the pain, there is always grace.

Hey friends, it's Beth.

Today, I want to share something that might feel really counterintuitive at first: Even the bully deserves to be loved. In the previous episode I touched on separating the person from the behaviour and that sounds almost impossible, right?

So, how do you show compassion to someone who's hurt you—or even to someone who has hurt others? Our natural instinct is to want them punished, to think they deserve every bad thing that comes their way. But God invites us into a different way.

He tells us to turn the other cheek. To offer our cloak as well. He's pointing us beyond the behaviour, straight to the person. Through His eyes, every one of us is still His child.

That's the challenging part. To see someone who has wronged us as still created in God's perfect image, still deserving of grace—just as much as we are.

Because when you've been hurt, it feels like they *are* their behaviour. But harmful actions almost always come out of trauma, from wounds in their own childhoods, from cycles that keep repeating through generations.

The behaviour needs to be addressed. That might mean therapy, prison, or rehabilitation. But the person underneath still matters. Their humanity is still worth holding space for.

When I think about the bully, the abuser, the one who causes harm...
it's easy to get caught in their behaviour. To judge them only by what they've done.

But God calls me to look deeper.

It doesn't mean I excuse the abuse or minimise what happened. It means I acknowledge their humanity. I recognise the pain that might be driving their

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actions. And I begin to offer the same grace that I so desperately hope to receive when I mess up.

That doesn't come naturally. But this is where healing starts—when my heart begins to soften.

And what about the abused child—the son or daughter carrying those wounds?

Here's what I've come to understand:

Healing begins when you become the loving parent to yourself that you never had.

Instead of seeing your father, husband, Grandmother—or whoever it was—only as the abuser, you start to see them as a broken little boy, or a broken little girl, who didn't get the love they needed. Just like you didn't. And then, slowly, you begin to heal your own wounds.

You start to transform your pain into compassion. Not by excusing what they did, but by realising they were carrying their own brokenness too.

That shift—holding love for yourself first, and then extending that love to them—creates a ripple of healing. It heals you. It heals generations before and after you.

And that's where forgiveness begins to flow.

Forgiveness doesn't mean we condone the abuse. It doesn't mean what happened was okay.

Forgiveness means we let go of the hold that anger, resentment, and hatred have over us.

Because here's the truth: you can't hold love and hate in your heart at the same time for the same person. Once you understand the pain behind their actions, forgiveness starts to happen naturally.

It's not about letting them off the hook. It's about setting yourself free. Free from carrying the weight of what they did. Free to live with peace in your heart.

So, here's the message I want to leave you with today:

When we look at the world through eyes of compassion...

when we separate people from their behaviours...

when we step into healing our own wounds...

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we start breaking cycles.

We start healing not only ourselves, but the world around us.

Even the bully deserves to be loved.

And when we dare to offer love in the face of pain—everything changes.

Thanks for listening. This is WisdomGuru.

Where compassion breaks cycles,

forgiveness sets us free,

and love has the final word.

Until next time, walk in grace.