

Forgiven to Forgiving

MATTHEW 18:21-35, LUKE 17:3-10

EPHESIANS 4:32 BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDER-HEARTED, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS GOD IN CHRIST ALSO HAS FORGIVEN YOU.

Three Questions:

1. WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

2. ARE YOU FORGIVEN?

3. DO YOU HAVE ANY UNFORGIVENESS IN YOUR HEART? IF SO ...

Sample Forgiveness verses from OT

GENESIS 50:15-21 WHEN JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SAW THAT THEIR FATHER WAS DEAD, THEY SAID, "WHAT IF JOSEPH BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST US AND PAYS US BACK IN FULL FOR ALL THE WRONG WHICH WE DID TO HIM!" 16 SO THEY SENT A MESSAGE TO JOSEPH, SAYING, "YOUR FATHER CHARGED BEFORE HE DIED, SAYING, 17 'THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO JOSEPH, "PLEASE FORGIVE, I BEG YOU, THE TRANSGRESSION OF YOUR BROTHERS AND THEIR SIN, FOR THEY DID YOU WRONG.'" AND NOW, PLEASE FORGIVE THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE SERVANTS OF THE GOD OF YOUR FATHER." AND JOSEPH WEPT WHEN THEY SPOKE TO HIM.

Sample Forgiveness verses from OT

18 THEN HIS BROTHERS ALSO CAME AND FELL DOWN BEFORE HIM AND SAID, "BEHOLD, WE ARE YOUR SERVANTS." 19 BUT JOSEPH SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR AM I IN GOD'S PLACE? 20 AS FOR YOU, YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THIS PRESENT RESULT, TO PRESERVE MANY PEOPLE ALIVE. 21 SO THEREFORE, DO NOT BE AFRAID; I WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR LITTLE ONES." SO HE COMFORTED THEM AND SPOKE KINDLY TO THEM.

Sample Forgiveness verses from OT

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 AND MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.

Sample Forgiveness Verse in NT

MATT 6: 12 'AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.

MATT 6:14-15 FOR IF YOU FORGIVE OTHERS FOR THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU. 15 BUT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE OTHERS, THEN YOUR FATHER WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

MATT 26:28 FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, WHICH IS Poured OUT FOR MANY FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

EPH 1:7 IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS (LifeAction.org)

FORGIVENESS MEANS THAT I FULLY RELEASE THE OFFENDER FROM HIS DEBT. IT MEANS FULLY CLEANING HIS RECORD. IT IS A PROMISE NEVER TO BRING UP THE OFFENSE AGAINST HIM AGAIN (TO GOD, TO OTHERS, OR TO THE OFFENDER HIMSELF).

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PSALM 103:12 AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.

HEBREWS 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS

1. TRANSACTIONAL

a. SIMPLE MODEL: WILL YOU FORGIVE ME - YES, I FORGIVE YOU

b. FULL MODEL: CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, REQUEST FORGIVENESS - FORGIVENESS GRANTED, RECONCILIATION.

2. ATTITUDINAL

a. PSALM 86:5 FOR YOU, LORD, ARE GOOD, AND READY TO FORGIVE, AND ABUNDANT IN LOVINGKINDNESS TO ALL WHO CALL UPON YOU.

Have you been forgiven?

BY GOD?

JOHN 3:3 JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS ONE IS BORN AGAIN HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

ROMANS 6:23 FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

ROMANS 10:9 THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH JESUS AS LORD, AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED;

1 JOHN 1:9 IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND RIGHTEOUS TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

BY OTHERS?

Don't Apologize. Don't Say, "I'm Sorry." (RickThomas.net)

- FORGIVENESS HEIGHTENS THE AWARENESS THAT A SIN WAS COMMITTED.
- FORGIVENESS IS PART OF THE PROCESS OF REPENTANCE.
- FORGIVENESS ALLOWS THE SINNER TO BE FREE FROM WHAT HE DID.
- FORGIVENESS ALLOWS THE VICTIM TO RELEASE THE SINNER FROM HIS CRIME.
- FORGIVENESS AFFIRMS THE TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL: CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS.
- FORGIVENESS BRINGS GLORY TO GOD BY NOT MINIMIZING THE NEED FOR HIM SENDING HIS SON.
- FORGIVENESS FOSTERS HUMILITY.
- FORGIVENESS REMOVES SIN BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE.
- FORGIVENESS GIVES A DEATH BLOW TO SIN'S ADVANCES.
- FORGIVENESS PICTURES TO OTHERS HOW TO DEAL WITH SIN.

Do you have any unforgiveness in your heart?

Forgiveness

MATT 18:21-35 THEN PETER CAME AND SAID TO HIM, "LORD, HOW OFTEN SHALL MY BROTHER SIN AGAINST ME AND I FORGIVE HIM? UP TO SEVEN TIMES?" 22 JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I DO NOT SAY TO YOU, UP TO SEVEN TIMES, BUT UP TO SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.

23 "FOR THIS REASON THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAY BE COMPARED TO A KING WHO WISHED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HIS SLAVES. 24 WHEN HE HAD BEGUN TO SETTLE THEM, ONE WHO OWED HIM TEN THOUSAND TALENTS WAS BROUGHT TO HIM. 25 BUT SINCE HE DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO REPAY, HIS LORD COMMANDED HIM TO BE SOLD, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ALL THAT HE HAD, AND REPAYMENT TO BE MADE. 26 SO THE SLAVE FELL TO THE GROUND AND PROSTRATED HIMSELF BEFORE HIM, SAYING, 'HAVE PATIENCE WITH ME AND I WILL REPAY YOU EVERYTHING.' 27 AND THE LORD OF THAT SLAVE FELT COMPASSION AND RELEASED HIM AND FORGAVE HIM THE DEBT.

Forgiveness

28 BUT THAT SLAVE WENT OUT AND FOUND ONE OF HIS FELLOW SLAVES WHO OWED HIM A HUNDRED DENARII; AND HE SEIZED HIM AND BEGAN TO CHOKE HIM, SAYING, 'PAY BACK WHAT YOU OWE.' 29 SO HIS FELLOW SLAVE FELL TO THE GROUND AND BEGAN TO PLEAD WITH HIM, SAYING, 'HAVE PATIENCE WITH ME AND I WILL REPAY YOU.' 30 BUT HE WAS UNWILLING AND WENT AND THREW HIM IN PRISON UNTIL HE SHOULD PAY BACK WHAT WAS OWED. 31 SO WHEN HIS FELLOW SLAVES SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THEY WERE DEEPLY GRIEVED AND CAME AND REPORTED TO THEIR LORD ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. 32 THEN SUMMONING HIM, HIS LORD SAID TO HIM, 'YOU WICKED SLAVE, I FORGAVE YOU ALL THAT DEBT BECAUSE YOU PLEADED WITH ME. 33 SHOULD YOU NOT ALSO HAVE HAD MERCY ON YOUR FELLOW SLAVE, IN THE SAME WAY THAT I HAD MERCY ON YOU?' 34 AND HIS LORD, MOVED WITH ANGER, HANDED HIM OVER TO THE TORTURERS UNTIL HE SHOULD REPAY ALL THAT WAS OWED HIM. 35 MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO DO THE SAME TO YOU, IF EACH OF YOU DOES NOT FORGIVE HIS BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART."

Forgiveness

LUKE 17: 3-10 3 BE ON YOUR GUARD! IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, REBUKE HIM; AND IF HE REPENTS, FORGIVE HIM. 4 AND IF HE SINS AGAINST YOU SEVEN TIMES A DAY, AND RETURNS TO YOU SEVEN TIMES, SAYING, 'I REPENT,' FORGIVE HIM."

5 THE APOSTLES SAID TO THE LORD, "INCREASE OUR FAITH!" 6 AND THE LORD SAID, "IF YOU HAD FAITH LIKE A MUSTARD SEED, YOU WOULD SAY TO THIS MULBERRY TREE, 'BE UPROOTED AND BE PLANTED IN THE SEA'; AND IT WOULD OBEY YOU.

7 "WHICH OF YOU, HAVING A SLAVE PLOWING OR TENDING SHEEP, WILL SAY TO HIM WHEN HE HAS COME IN FROM THE FIELD, 'COME IMMEDIATELY AND SIT DOWN TO EAT'? 8 BUT WILL HE NOT SAY TO HIM, 'PREPARE SOMETHING FOR ME TO EAT, AND PROPERLY CLOTHE YOURSELF AND SERVE ME WHILE I EAT AND DRINK; AND AFTERWARD YOU MAY EAT AND DRINK'? 9 HE DOES NOT THANK THE SLAVE BECAUSE HE DID THE THINGS WHICH WERE COMMANDED, DOES HE? 10 SO YOU TOO, WHEN YOU DO ALL THE THINGS WHICH ARE COMMANDED YOU, SAY, 'WE ARE UNWORTHY SLAVES; WE HAVE DONE ONLY THAT WHICH WE OUGHT TO HAVE DONE.'"

Have you ever been hurt?

- LIED TO
- PROMISE(S) BROKEN
- NEGLECTED BY GROWN CHILDREN
- VIOLENT CRIME AGAINST SELF OR A LOVED ONE
- TREATED UNFAIRLY BY AN EMPLOYER
- PARENTS DIVORCED
- SLANDERED/FALSELY ACCUSED
- DIVORCED BY MATE
- MATE COMMITTED ADULTERY OR OTHER SEXUAL SIN
- REJECTED BY PARENTS
- STOLEN FROM
- CHEATED IN A BUSINESS/FINANCIAL DEAL
- REBELLIOUS/WAYWARD CHILD
- BELITTLED
- ALCOHOLIC PARENT OR MATE
- ABANDONED BY PARENT OR MATE
- PUBLICLY HUMILIATED
- ABUSED (PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, SEXUALLY)

AS YOU REFLECT ON THE WAYS YOU HAVE BEEN OFFENDED, DO YOU FIND ANY OF THESE STATEMENTS TO BE TRUE?

- EVERY TIME I THINK OF (PERSON OR OFFENSE), I STILL FEEL ANGRY.
- I HAVE A SUBTLE, SECRET DESIRE TO SEE (PERSON) PAY FOR WHAT HE (SHE/THEY) DID TO ME.
- DEEP IN MY HEART, I WOULDN'T MIND IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO THE PERSON(S) WHO HURT ME.
- I SOMETIMES FIND MYSELF TELLING OTHERS HOW (PERSON) HURT ME.
- IF (PERSON'S) NAME COMES UP, I AM MORE LIKELY TO SAY SOMETHING NEGATIVE ABOUT HIM/HER THAN SOMETHING POSITIVE.
- I CANNOT THANK GOD FOR (PERSON).

THESE STATEMENTS ARE AN INDICATION THAT WE HAVE NOT FULLY FORGIVEN ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED AGAINST US.

Do you have any unforgiveness in your heart?

1 JOHN 1:8 IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE ARE DECEIVING OURSELVES AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US.

MARK 11:25 WHENEVER YOU STAND PRAYING, FORGIVE, IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST ANYONE, SO THAT YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

“There’s no way I could ever forgive (person) for (offense). He (she/they) hurt me too deeply.”

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HURTS JESUS SUFFERED FROM US?

ISAIAH 53:5 BUT HE WAS PIERCED THROUGH FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE CHASTENING FOR OUR WELL-BEING FELL UPON HIM, AND BY HIS SCOURGING WE ARE HEALED.

PSALM 22:6-7 BUT I AM A WORM AND NOT A MAN, A REPROACH OF MEN AND DESPISED BY THE PEOPLE. **7** ALL WHO SEE ME SNEER AT ME; THEY SEPARATE WITH THE LIP, THEY WAG THE HEAD

“There’s no way I could ever forgive (person) for (offense). He (she/they) hurt me too deeply.”

HOW HAS GOD DEALT WITH US WHO HAVE SINNED AGAINST HIM SO GREATLY?

EPHESIANS 2:4-5 BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, 5 EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED)

ISAIAH 43:25 “I, EVEN I, AM THE ONE WHO WIPES OUT YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS FOR MY OWN SAKE, AND I WILL NOT REMEMBER YOUR SINS.

MICAH 7:18-19 WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU, WHO PARDONS INIQUITY AND PASSES OVER THE REBELLIOUS ACT OF THE REMNANT OF HIS POSSESSION? HE DOES NOT RETAIN HIS ANGER FOREVER, BECAUSE HE DELIGHTS IN UNCHANGING LOVE. 19 HE WILL AGAIN HAVE COMPASSION ON US; HE WILL TREAD OUR INIQUITIES UNDER FOOT. YES, YOU WILL CAST ALL THEIR SINS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA.

“There’s no way I could ever forgive (person) for (offense). He (she/they) hurt me too deeply.”

HOW DID JESUS COMMAND US TO RESPOND TO THOSE WHO WRONG US?

LUKE 6:27 “BUT I SAY TO YOU WHO HEAR, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU

ROMANS 12:17-21 NEVER PAY BACK EVIL FOR EVIL TO ANYONE. RESPECT WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF ALL MEN. 18 IF POSSIBLE, SO FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU, BE AT PEACE WITH ALL MEN. 19 NEVER TAKE YOUR OWN REVENGE, BELOVED, BUT LEAVE ROOM FOR THE WRATH OF GOD, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” SAYS THE LORD. 20 “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” 21 DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.

COLOSSIANS 3:13 BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING EACH OTHER, WHOEVER HAS A COMPLAINT AGAINST ANYONE; JUST AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO SHOULD YOU.

“There’s no way I could ever forgive (person) for (offense). He (she/they) hurt me too deeply.”

ON THAT BASIS, WHAT OFFENSE IS “TOO GREAT” TO FORGIVE?

WOULD GOD COMMAND US TO DO SOMETHING THAT HE WOULD NOT ENABLE US TO DO?

HOW ARE WE ENABLED TO FORGIVE?

PHILIPPIANS 2:13 FOR IT IS GOD WHO IS AT WORK IN YOU, BOTH TO WILL AND TO WORK FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE

“They don’t deserve to be forgiven.”

WHAT DID WE DO TO EARN OR DESERVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS?

ROMANS 5:8 BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

EPHESIANS 2:4-9 BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, 5 EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED), 6 AND RAISED US UP WITH HIM, AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS, 7 SO THAT IN THE AGES TO COME HE MIGHT SHOW THE SURPASSING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN KINDNESS TOWARD US IN CHRIST JESUS. 8 FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD; 9 NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST.

“They don’t deserve to be forgiven.”

WHAT ARE THE REASONS WE SHOULD EXTEND FORGIVENESS TO THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US?

- THE OFFENDER IS GENUINELY SORRY FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.
- I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AN INFINITE DEBT BY GOD, SO I FORGIVE AS I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.
- GOD COMMANDS ME TO FORGIVE.
- THE OFFENDER PROMISES NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN.
- THE OFFENSE WAS AN “UNDERSTANDABLE MISTAKE.”

“If I forgive them, they’re off the hook!”

ROMANS 12:19 NEVER TAKE YOUR OWN REVENGE, BELOVED, BUT LEAVE ROOM FOR THE WRATH OF GOD, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” SAYS THE LORD.

“I’ve forgiven them, but I’ll never be able to forget what they did to me.”

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, WHEN GOD FORGIVES US, WHAT DOES HE PROMISE TO DO?

JEREMIAH 31:34B “FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, AND THEIR SIN I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”

HEBREWS 10:17 “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”

PSALM 103:12 AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.

“I won’t forgive!”

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IF WE REFUSE TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US?

MATTHEW 6:14-15 FOR IF YOU FORGIVE OTHERS FOR THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU. 15 BUT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE OTHERS, THEN YOUR FATHER WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

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Choosing to Forgive

- 1. MAKE A LIST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU.** NEXT TO EACH NAME, WRITE THE OFFENSE(S) WHICH THAT PERSON COMMITTED AGAINST YOU. THEN RECORD HOW YOU RESPONDED TO THEIR WRONGDOING.
- 2. THANK GOD FOR EACH PERSON WHO HAS WOUNDED YOU.** THEY ARE INSTRUMENTS TO HUMBLE YOU AND TO MOLD YOU AND CONFORM YOU TO THE IMAGE OF JESUS.
- 3. CONFESS TO GOD, AND THEN TO THE OFFENDER, ANY WRONG RESPONSES YOU MAY HAVE HAD (UNFORGIVENESS, HATRED, BITTERNESS, GOSSIP).**
- 4. AS CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU, FULLY FORGIVE EACH OFFENDER.** REMEMBER THAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT A FEELING; RATHER, IT IS A CHOICE AND AN ACT OF THE WILL. IT IS A COMMITMENT TO CLEAR THE OTHER PERSON'S RECORD, NEVER TO HOLD THAT OFFENSE AGAINST THEM.
- 5. CONFIRM YOUR LOVE. (2 CORINTHIANS 2:8)** LOOK FOR WAYS TO "RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL"— THAT IS, TO INVEST POSITIVELY IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU.



THE DANGER OF FORGIVING YOURSELF

CHRIST FORGIVING
+ SELF-FORGIVING

= HERESY

CHRIST FORGIVING
+ MY ACCEPTANCE

= GOSPEL

Are you Forgiven?
Are you Forgiving?

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