

THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS

If You Don't Forgive, You Won't Be Forgiven.
(Matthew 6:5-15) (Luke 6:37) (Matthew 18: 21-35)

1. Be Open to Your Traditions, Preconceptions, and Prejudices Being Challenged.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit for Understanding.
3. Relentlessly Dig and Search for Kingdom Truth and the Knowledge of God.
4. Learn About Differences Linguistically and Culturally That Affect Your Understanding.
5. Humble Yourself and Allow Jesus' Words Supremacy in Your Life.

What is forgiveness according to the Bible?

So why the saying, "If You Don't Forgive, You Won't Be Forgiven."

Matthew 6:5-15 (Lord's Prayer)

⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray:

⁹ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² **And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ¹⁴ **For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.** ¹⁵ **But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

Luke 6:37

³⁷ Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. **Forgive, and you will be forgiven.**

Comments:

There is a link between the Lord's forgiveness and our forgiveness of others. We will talk about what that link is.

Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt."

²⁶"At this time the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Luke 23:34

³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Colossians 3: 12, 13-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Psalms 32: 1-5; 10-11

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ² Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. ³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. ¹¹ Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Psalms 51: 1-2

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Some questions to consider on the importance of forgiveness.

How much and how many times and when and whom should we forgive?

When you hold resentment, what goes on in your soul?

What results from our forgiveness of others? (ie: what God gives us when we forgive?)

Is our forgiveness a good work to earn us favor—to earn God's forgiveness?

Do unforgiving people lose their salvation?

How does forgiveness affect justice?

Application:

What estranged or strained relationships can we revisit with a fresh mindset from the Holy Spirit?

How can we forgive and start a new pattern of forgiveness and love?