

## **FORGIVENESS: To pardon or overlook an offence**

*Luke 7:36-48 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. 37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. 40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

*Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

### **We are commanded in the scriptures to forgive others.**

#### **I. First we see the MANDATE:**

*Matt 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

*Luke 6:36-37 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:*

*Col 3:12-13 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

#### **II. Second we see the MOTIVE for forgiveness.**

##### **a. It ought to be done to please our Savior!**

Our Lord admonishes us that if there is a problem between us and our brother...

*Matt 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

##### **b. It should be done to profit us.**

*Matt 6:9-12 Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.*

The model prayer that the Lord lays out for us teaches us that if we forgive men their trespasses our Father, which is in heaven, will forgive ours!

It has benefits to us. When we forgive, we are forgiven. When we forgive, we are right with God. When we forgive, we learn to be more Christ-like in our lives.

*Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

*James 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy;*

**c. It is used in a spiritual cleansing, for our own peace of mind and healing.**

*James 5:15-16 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Someone once said, "To err is human. To forgive is divine."

**d. It is done to restore Christian fellowship and to protect us from Satan's attacks**

*2 Cor 2:7-11 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. 8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. 10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; 11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

Having an unforgiving spirit is allowing Satan to have an advantage over your life.

**III. What is the METHOD in which we should forgive?**

**a. Forgiveness should be done in a Christ-like attitude.**

*Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Our example is Jesus Christ! It was our sins that put Him and nailed Him to that cross, and yet He cried out, *Luke 23:34-37 Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. 36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, 37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.*

Stephen is an example for us to follow in this area. *Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

**b. Forgiveness should be practiced on a continual basis.**

*Matt 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

*Luke 17:3-5 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. 5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.*

*Rom 12:17-21 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

(Example. It is recorded that in 1818, Tomatoo, king of Huahine, one of the South Sea Islands, trusted Christ as his Savior. Shortly thereafter, he discovered a plot among his fellow natives to seize and kill him and other converts to Christianity. Tomatoo organized a group of his own followers to attack the plotters and capture them. Once they were in his power, he totally surprised them by feeding them a magnificent meal. This absolutely unexpected kindness so surprised the savages that they burned their idols and became followers of Christ!)

### **Let's return to our text and look at Christ's divine forgiveness. (Luke 7: 36-48)**

Those who appreciate God's forgiveness most are those who need it most! Bread is common to many, but it is precious to the starving.

#### **1. His forgiveness is FULL!**

*Pss 103:1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

#### **2. His forgiveness is FREE!**

*Luke 7:40-42 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?*

Salvation is free to us, but it cost God the death of his son. The cross is the cost of my forgiveness.

*Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

#### **3. His forgiveness was FRANK!**

It was very open and without restraint. *Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?*

*Luke 8:48 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.*

*John 8:10-11 Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

*Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*  
Stephen said... *Acts 7:60 ...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.*

#### **4. His forgiveness was FINAL!**

*Luke 7:43-48 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

*Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*

*Heb 10:17 ...And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

*Isa 43:25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

*Jer 31:34 ...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Self examination time: Ask yourself these questions...

- a. Is there anything between God the Father and me that is my fault?
- b. Is there anything between a brother or sister in the Lord that is not settled?
- c. Is there anything between my children and I? My spouse and I? My parents and I?

*Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*