

Topic:

FORGIVENESS

Bible Text: Matthew 6:15

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The word forgiveness has different meanings to different individuals at different circumstances. Some believe that there are circumstances that do not warrant forgiveness, while some would tell others to forgive but they do not have the spirit to do so themselves.

Let's know the meaning of forgiveness as we continue. The word forgiveness was derived from the mother word forgive, and forgive according to Merriam Webster dictionary means : to stop feeling angry towards someone who has done something wrong : to stop blaming (someone) : to stop feeling angry about (something) : to forgive someone for (something wrong) : to stop requiring payment of (money that is owed) Looking into these definitions, one could see that a particular word keeps on showing up.

Which is TO STOP

- Feeling hatred towards someone for what the person did.

- Keeping malice with that person who offended you.

- Revenging on the evil that person did to you

- Insulting him/her for lying against you.

- Punishing him/her emotionally because he/she defiled your matrimonial bed.

I know he/she was the reason why you were expelled, TO STOP feeling bitterness towards him/her is forgiveness Bible text: Matt.6.14 - **For if you forgive people their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins, leaving them, letting them go, and giving up resentment], your heavenly Father will also forgive you.15 - But if you do not forgive others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins, leaving them, letting them go, and giving up resentment], neither will your Father forgive you your trespasses.**

The bible tells us that if we forgive others God will forgive us. Verse 15 now says that BUT if you do not forgive others their trespasses. Please look into that word BUT, it simply means that God is ready to forgive you ONLY IF, you forgive others.

Hmmm, no wonder you have been crying for forgiveness from God concerning that matter, but it is as if he has turned deaf ears to you. He is not deaf. He heard you, but refused to forgive you, because you are still holding someone captive in the prison of your heart. This tells us that, we can only be forgiven by God only on the condition of forgiving others.

I would like to call your attention to this fact, we are all born in sins and we do fall into sins at times (not willful sins) which means we would always require God's forgiveness, just because we are still humans and not Angels, we still err. If you now mistakenly sin do you expect God to forgive you, while you have not forgiven another person?

Never! God does not work that way, it is a matter of reaping what you sow. You cannot sow unforgiveness and reap forgiveness. As Christians, we are to resemble our Father the Lord Jesus Christ. He forgives willingly and loves us, even in pains he still forgave, that was when he was on the cross, he was mercilessly beaten for what he did not do, spat upon, stabbed, nailed and yet he said Father FORGIVE them.

Kai!, even in the midst of pains. Ahh, Lord Jesus I need that Spirit tonight, make me your prototype. What did that person do to you that can be more than what they did to our Lord Jesus that has made you vow that you'd not forgive him or her. Hmmm, yes he raped you! It pained you, you wept, and God has helped you through the pains but you say that you can never forgive him. Ahhhh, is that more than what they did to the Lord Jesus Christ?? Our Lord was KILLED, but you weren't.

The Bible records in Ps.86.5 - **For thou, Lord, art good, AND READY TO FORGIVE; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.**

The Lord is READY TO FORGIVE but you are never ready to forgive, why na?

Instead of you to forgive you keep on saying to ERR IS HUMAN TO FORGIVE IS DIVINE that it will only take divine intervention before you can forgive that person. Haba!!!! Do you look like your father 'Jesus Christ' You have vouch not to forgive that person on

earth that it is until when you get to heaven before you do so. Who told you that there will be an opportunity to forgive in heaven. You make me laugh. After death is judgment, and if unforgiving spirit is found in you there is no second chance for your soul.

Let us quickly look into the story of Joseph

Am sure that we are very familiar with it. How he was sold into slavery by his blood brothers. And how he suffered in Egypt and how God uplifted him at the end of the day, as his brothers were now at his mercy. So after their Father Jacob died, His brothers became afraid that Joseph would retaliate and pay them back in their own coin. Let's see what happened. Gen.50.15 - **And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.**

Because they thought he did not revenge because their father was there with them

Gen.50.16 - **And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,**

They had to send a messenger for the fear of him, just because of the power he held at that moment, he had the power to slew them all, without anybody questioning him

Gen.50.17 - **So shall ye say unto Joseph, FORGIVE, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, FORGIVE the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father.**

Kai!!!, they begged Joseph to forgive them, they came back to their senses only when they thought there is no more defense (the Father Jacob), have they not been with him since, why didn't they come to their senses?? Because they thought he could do nothing since Jacob was there. Now when Jacob died, they knew that they were now in hot soup. What did Joseph do?

And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

Joseph wept - ahhhh, that was how you cried when that person despised you, that was how you cried when you were jilted by that your fiance(e) few days to your wedding. You remembered all what you have been through. Even till now, you still feel the pains, Joseph cried too. He was a human like you, he felt pained.

What was Joseph's reaction??

Gen. 50.19 - **And Joseph said unto them, FEAR NOT: FOR AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?**

Ahhh... Am I in the place of God? He told them he was not God that they should be afraid, he said that he was not the one to take revenge. But you have decided to take revenge on that person through unforgiveness, instead of you to have asked yourself if you can take the place of God in the matter, instead you now stand as God and refuse to take pleadings, haba.

Remember that God will not forgive you if you do not free that person.

As you are reading this, there is somebody that is coming to your mind that you have not forgiven, quickly FORGIVE him/her or them if they are many like Joseph's brothers now.

What did Joseph do to his brothers instead.

Gen.50.21 - **Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.**

Imagine what he did, even in pains. Release those you have held in captive, in the prison of your heart tonight. The Lord will comfort you and stand by you. He shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace

Mark.11.25 says **And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, FORGIVE him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.**

This tells us that unforgiveness can hinder one's prayers to God too. That is why you have been pursuing that promotion for years and you are not getting it. You remain childless because you did not forgive that person. You refuse to move forward in life because you owe someone forgiveness. Someone said forgiveness is not for the good of others but it is for your own good.

As I round up tonight,

I would like to tell us the story of a particular brother. The brother was a robber before giving his life to Christ, he had robbed and killed many people. So it was time for him to do His restitution (we know about restitution already) since he knew the parents of one of those children he killed. He decided to go to the man. This man and his wife are Christians and they had only one Child whom they have always hoped would take care of them at old age.

But it was this child that this now converted robber killed when they came to his house. To cut the long story short. The before robber located the man, and confessed to him that he was the one who killed their ONLY child. That he had come to ask for forgiveness. The Man stayed silent for sometime (am sure he would have thought about the pains he and his wife went through due to the murder of their only child) The man looked at the converted robber and said I will forgive you only on one condition.

And the condition is that you must not depart from the faith. Hmmm. This man felt the hurt in his heart yet, he forgave.

Tonight, I would want you to know that it is only when you forgive that God would mend the broken pieces of your life, that is only when you can even make heaven as there is nobody who do not forgive that will make heaven. Make a decision now to forgive and

God will heal your broken heart. Amen.

Truly, it is not easy. But just let go, it is a matter of your heart, your actions would change towards the person once your heart gets pure. Take the burden out of your heart now. And surrender everything to Christ. And it will surely be well with you.

QUESTION

My question is that for someone to forgive, doesn't that mean the offender will ask for forgiveness first?

Answer

Forgiveness is achieved according to situations that surround those involved but the peak of it is that forgiveness must be acquired/given, in the sense that.

If a person offended you and the person did not ask for forgiveness (it might be that the person is not aware of it) then in such case call the person's attention to it, but if the person insists on not pleading. Then you as a Christian do what Christ did and taught Mark.11.25 says **And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, FORGIVE him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.**

This did not say that the person must plead first before forgiving him/her. You have to forgive the person so that your prayers would not be hindered. Jesus also exhibited this on the cross. Luke.23.34 - **And Jesus prayed, Father, FORGIVE them, for they know not what they do. And they divided His garments and distributed them by casting lots for them.** Here is our Lord still praying for those who caused Him pains/hurt— forgiving them, and even in the midst of that prayer they did not beg him or repent, they still continued to cause him pains. And they divided His garments and distributed them by casting lots for them. Imagine!, so we can always pray for the grace to forgive people even when they refuse to apologize for their wrong doings.

I hope this answer helped.

The end