

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Teaching Ministry

7.13.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Giving Forgiveness

## Matthew 18: 21 – 35

As believers, Gods standards have become our standards, but how do we know what Gods standards are, well we know this through the study of God's word. Therefore, the next question we would ask ourselves then is how are we to live according to those standards which we have acquired from God. This then would come through our obedience to his word, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Although Gods standards are made clear unto us through his word, following the flesh, and following the desires of the flesh make our efforts to follow his standards very difficult. In our own efforts Gods standards are impossible to follow, because when we are living in our own efforts we are not living by our faith in God. Having the desire to live according to Gods standards requires great faith. Our goal, our willingness, our desire as believers is to glorify God, daily. This can only happen when we live according to his standards. Making the commitment to live a life in Christ is truly a commitment to follow after the promises of God. So, we must be willing to learn to follow after Gods standard of forgiveness. As believers, through the fruit of the spirit that dwells within us which is: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, which comes to us from the forgiveness of God, and are to be given by us in forgiveness to others. Remember, forgiveness is not something that we earn as some might think, forgiveness has always been given and must always continue to be given. God forgave us, so we are to forgive others.

**Ephesians 4: 32,....**be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you....

Everyone at some point and time seeks forgiveness from someone. Humanity desires forgiveness, and yet is incapable of receiving true forgiveness, unless by faith believing, mankind accepts it through the shed blood of Christ, for without Christ there is no forgiveness. So, why is forgiveness so difficult? It is because mankind cannot forgive if they have never come to the understanding in their life of just how much they have been forgiven. This is due to:

**Ephesians 4: 31**,....bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour ( which is being loud and obnoxious and confusing ), and evil speaking....with malice ( spitefully with hostility )....

We live in a world that encourages self-promotion, which produces self-righteousness, and from self-righteousness stems sinful attitudes, and behaviors. We should not think that kindness and forgiveness is optional, just because of the worldly emotions that we are feeling. It is not optional, it is instructed, therefore it is required of God.

**Matthew 18: 21 – 35**,....then came Peter....and said....how oft....shall....I forgive....till seven times....Jesus saith....until seventy times seven....the kingdom of heaven is likened unto....a....king, which would take account of his servants....one was brought which owed him....commanded....payment to be made....servant....fell down....saying have patience with me, and I will pay the all....the Lord of that servant was moved with compassion....and gave him the debt.... but that same servant....found one....which owed him....he laid hands on him....saying....pay me that thou owest....his fellow servant....besought him....have patience with me, and I will pay thee....he would not....and cast him into prison....then his Lord....called him....thou wicked servant, I forgave thee....shouldest not thou also have had compassion....his Lord....delivered him....till he should pay all that was due....like wise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses....

As believers, forgiveness is given endlessly unto us and therefore should be an endless gift that we give unto others. Because God has forgiven us, we are to forgive one another. As believers, we understand that our sin debt was paid in full by Christ, which is the basis for God's forgiveness. We cannot repay our debt to God, nor can we earn our salvation, because it is a free gift. Therefore, forgiveness shown unto others should be in like proportion to the amount that we are forgiven. As servants of God, by faith believing in Christ Jesus, our sins have been forgiven, our sin debt has been paid, therefore, when we are offended by others, we should be willing to forgive with a heart of compassion, because of the grace which we ourselves have been given.

**Matthew 6: 14 – 15**,....for if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will then forgive you....but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses....

As believers, our eternal destiny is not based upon our forgiving others. However, like all that God commands us to do, in everything, if we are disobedient, it damages or hinders our relationship with God. When Christ taught his disciples the fundamentals of prayer, he taught them saying:

**Matthew 6: 12,....**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors....

As believers, asking God for forgiveness when we sin, is commanded unto us through the instruction given unto us in his word.

**Mark 11: 25,....**whenever you stand praying forgive....

**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....

Asking God for forgiveness of sin and asking him to restore us in our relationship with him while withholding forgiveness from someone else, would make us what? Yes, a hypocrite! We cannot possibly walk in true fellowship with God if we refuse forgiveness to others. Any sin committed against us is insignificant in comparison to our sinfulness against God. God forgives us for so much, and we forgive others for so little.

**Colossians 3: 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....

We are to forgive one another generously, patiently enduring the faults of others in a kind, generous, godly manner. Forgiveness is putting up with the changing attitudes of our brothers and sisters in Christ, with a spirit of gentleness, grace, and understanding, and with patient endurance. But the greatest of our incentives toward forgiving others is based upon the gospel of truth, and that is that God forgave us, it was a free gift, and it is eternal.

**Hebrews 8: 12,....**for I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more....

**Psalm 103: 12,....**as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us....

**Jeremiah 31: 34,....**know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more....

If forgiveness is not heartfelt, or sincere, then is it really forgiveness? not at all, and an unforgiving spirit is not pleasing unto God. Our actions reveal the truthfulness of our relationship with God, and a self-righteous person only sees Gods mercy for himself. If we are unwilling to give mercy and forgiveness unto others, then we do not have a genuine understanding of our relationship with God.

**Proverbs 17: 9,....**he that covereth a transgression seeketh love, but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends....

God's love will prosper in our life when we learn to forgive others, but if we dwell on the faults of others and do not forgive, then we will allow those faults to separate what once was considered a close relationship, a relationship that was founded upon the grace of God. The primary goal of godly love and unity in Christ is to encourage one another in the body of Christ to grow closer in their relationship with God.

**Galatians 6: 1 – 2,....**if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest also ye be tempted....bear ye one another burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ....

Let us Pray.

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