

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Teaching Ministry

3.29.2026

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. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Forgiveness

Luke 23: 33 - 34

Forgiveness: only as a believer, can we give and receive true forgiveness, for true forgiveness can only come out of the love provided in God, by his free gift of his grace, through the sacrifice of his only begotten Son, Christ Jesus. Therefore, we must first receive Gods forgiveness through Christ before we can truly offer forgiveness unto others. So, what is true forgiveness, true forgiveness is an act of compassion, motivated within us by the indwelling Holy Spirit, who enables us with the power and the strength of an almighty God, to humble ourselves in him, putting the needs of others before our own.

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

So, here is how this works. God extended unto us, through the sacrifice of his Son, an unconditional love. So, here is what this means: it is a love that is selfless, it is an unchanging love, a love that is not based upon human emotion or behavior, it is an eternal love. This unconditional love comes from an act of obedience and humility, where we let go of all worldly bitterness, envy, jealousy, malice, and strife, and we trust in Gods judgement, rather than our own form of justice, which comes from harboring a heart full of resentment. We forgive, because we have been forgiven, not because we feel someone is deserving of it.

Philippians 2: 1 – 5,....therefore, any consolation in Christ, any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any bowels and mercies....fulfill ye my joy....be like minded....having the same love....one accord....one mind....in lowliness of mind....esteem other better than themselves....look not every man on his own things, but every man....on the things of others....let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ....

So, true forgiveness is active, which means not just saying you're sorry or just saying I accept your forgiveness, but it is lifting one another up, by recognizing their self-worth in God. It is viewing others through the eyes of God, seeing one another as being created in his image, and worthy of the hope of his eternal salvation.

So, today I am going to give you the greatest example of true forgiveness.

Luke 23: 33 – 34,....when they were come to the place, which is called calvary, there they crucified him....then said Jesus, father forgive them, for they know not what they do....

Now, what I want us to understand is that this forgiveness, which was given, by Christ, on the cross, was forgiveness that had already been given and accepted even before the foundation of the world. True forgiveness was always a part of Gods eternal plan. So, as believers, upon accepting the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, God instilled within us, through his indwelling Holy Spirit, his true plan of forgiveness, and it is now a permanent part of our lives, and it comes through the characteristics of the fruit of his spirit.

Galatians 5: 22 – 23,....love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance....

There is no true forgiveness in our life without these godly characteristics. Also, forgiveness, just as it was when Christ was crucified, it is a planned event, if it wasn't we would never experience it, for it would just be words coming out of our mouth, temporary actions with no eternal value.

Galatians 5: 24 – 25,....they that are Christs have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts....if we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit....

So, everyday we must align our behavior with the Holy Spirits guidance. This allows us to live a life that is yielded unto his divine influence, and it is this that produces within us the godly qualities of the fruit of the spirit. This in turn helps us to actively display true forgiveness every moment of every day. So, now instead of temporarily reacting to situations and circumstances in our life, we are making decisions based upon our obedience to Gods eternal plan, which in return is based upon our new life in Christ.

Galatians 2: 20 – 21,....I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....I do not frustrate the grace of God....

So, here is what took place when we accepted Gods saving grace. A spiritual exchange took place in our life. The old self, which was defined by our sinfulness died with Christ on the cross. Now, by the same free gift of God's grace, which brought unto us the righteousness of Christ, he now lives through us. For we understand that without a faith-based union, where Christ becomes the source of our identity and strength, there could never be a relationship between us and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So, now our daily life is sustained by our complete trust and faith in the Son of God. Therefore, we are hidden in Christ, and we find purpose in him, by committing ourselves to his true forgiveness in our life. True forgiveness is a call to become Christlike, which means living out our salvation through, and by our faith in Christ, rather than just trying to avoid doing things that are not pleasing unto God.

Psalms 130: 1 – 5,....out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord....hear my voice, let thine eyes be attentive to....my supplications....if thou, Lord, shouldest make iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand....but there is forgiveness within thee, that thou mayest be feared....I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait....and in his word do I hope....

We learn true forgiveness when we acknowledge that we cannot save ourselves, and we need divine intervention in our life. In every moment of our life, we must look to God, and by faith we know that he is not distant, but he is attentive to our needs, and ready to respond with his mercy and his grace. In the world we are defined by our sinfulness, but in God we are known by his capacity of redemption and forgiving grace. Forgiveness transforms our punishment into a loving, obedient devotion unto God. We must always be in a readiness for forgiveness, for it provides hope without despair. It signifies an obedience of mercy, but not from fear of judgement. It encourages repentance through God's grace, which is a motivation for us to live a life that is holy and glorifies God.

Isaiah 1: 18 -19,....come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow....if ye be willing and obedient....

True forgiveness symbolizes Gods power to cleanse and to restore, inviting us as believers to reason together concerning the need for redemption. True forgiveness is based upon the sacrifice of Christ, a divine act of Gods mercy and grace, and it is only in this that the broken relationship between God and humanity can be restored. Therefore, it is only true forgiveness when it is both given and received, for it is a reflection of Gods divine grace, allowing us to live and remain firmly in Gods great love. So, can we always faithfully say: Father forgive them.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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