

**FORGIVE AND YE SHALL BE  
FORGIVEN**  
**LUKE 6:37, MATTHEW 18:21-35**

Text: Luke 6:37

(Luke 6:37) "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged:  
condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive,  
and ye shall be forgiven:"

Introduction:

Read Matthew 18:21-35

Often people make statements that do not  
demonstrate Biblical forgiveness.

What is forgiveness?

## **1. THE MEANING**

A. To set aside

When we forgive something we take it off the table

B. To surrender (to forsake, to yield up, to free  
fully)

When we forgive someone, we surrender our right to use it against them anymore.

C. To silence (to omit, to let die, to forsake)

When we forgive someone we are never to bring up the matter again.

Many like keeping people unforgiven. It makes them feel superior to them. It gives them something to hold over them.

Once we set aside, surrender and silence, we must face them as equals or we must become their servants.

## **2. THE MANDATE**

A. The “Why” of Forgiveness

1. Because we have been forgiven

(Mat 18:32-33) "Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: {33} Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?"

2. Because unforgiving people are unforgiven people.

(Mat 6:15) "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

3. Because unforgiving people are open to Satan's attacks.

(2 Cor 2:11) "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

## B. The "What" of Forgiveness

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

Note that we are not simply to forgive because God has forgiven us, but as, or in the same fashion that He has forgiven us.

1. God's forgiveness is immediate.

(Luke 23:42-43) "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. {43} And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

2. God's forgiveness is complete.

(Psa 103:3) "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;"

(1 Cor 6:11) "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

### 3. God's forgiveness is permanent

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

#### Illustration

The doctor who never collected all the money from his patients

### 4. God's forgiveness is a reconciling forgiveness.

(Eph 2:15-16) "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; {16} And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"

God took the initiative to be reconciled with wicked sinners who have deliberately turned their backs on His love, His mercy, and His grace.

When we forgive someone we must take appropriate steps to reconcile the relationship.

a. In Matthew 5 the one who has offended is told to take the initiative.

(Mat 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. In Matthew 18 the one who is offended is told to take the initiative.

(Mat 18:32-33) "Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: {33} Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?"

In other words, on whichever side of the equation we find ourselves it is our job to take steps to reconcile the relationship.

### **3. THE METHOD**

#### **A. Remember**

1. Remember your forgiveness.
2. Remember what you deserve.
3. Remember how gracious God has been to you in giving you everlasting life and blotted out your sins.

#### **B. Refuse**

1. Refuse to bring up the matter again.

Reprogram your mind to think positively instead of negatively.

(Mat 5:44) "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Close:

Story of the burglar who broke into the home of the lady

There is not many powerful things in this world as powerful that the power of forgiveness.