

HE THAT COVERETH A TRANSGRESSION PROVERBS 17:9; MATTHEW 18:21-35

Text: Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:9 (KJV)

⁹He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

Introduction:

We continue considering the steps to contentment.
We looked last week at peace.

Again we cannot enjoy the peace that passes all understanding without first making peace with God. Once peace is made with God through salvation then the individual can enjoy the peace of God.

This evening we'll consider the second step toward contentment; forgiveness.

This is an area that each of us at times struggle with.

When I have been wronged, what response should I give? This is a relevant question for all people.

We have read of people being shot dead after an argument. This desire to “get even” is a part of our human or old nature.

Illustration:

It is like the story of a mother who heard her seven-year-old son screaming. She runs into the next room to see what is wrong, and discovers her two-year-old daughter is pulling the hair of her brother. The mother gets the hand of the baby unclenched and says, “You will have to overlook this. Your sister doesn’t know what it feels like to have her hair pulled.”

The mother goes back into the kitchen when she hears the daughter screaming. She runs back into the room and says, “What happened?” The boy answered, “She knows what it feels like now.”

It is human nature to want to “get even”. However, according to the teachings of the Lord we are to be forgiving.

Notice this illustration of forgiveness found here in Matthew 18

Read Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ 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. ²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² 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? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Peter's concern was how many times to forgive.

The Lord's answer was seventy time seven.

Someone once said; “By the time you have forgiven 490 times you will be in the habit of forgiving and out of the practice of holding a grudge.”

This parable will teach us the importance of forgiveness

Notice:

1. THE KING AND HIS FORGIVENESS (VS. 21-27)

Matthew 18:21-27

²¹ 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. ²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

The king was taking account of his servants, one of which owed in today’s money approximately 19 million dollars.

The truth is this is a clear picture of each of us in this room in regards to the Lord.

We own Him for all that we have.

Sadly we keep embezzling from His accounts.

Often people steal:

- God's time
- God's money

This servant in this story didn't have enough money to pay the debt.

Nor do we have enough for all that the Lord has provided for us.

We see the compassion of the king in his forgiveness.

This is a picture of salvation.

2. THE SERVANT AND HIS FORGETFULNESS (VS. 28-30)

Matthew 18:28-30

²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

This servant found a fellow servant who owed him.

He was looking for someone indebted to him.

This individual owed him in today's money approximately 15 dollars.

The truth is that others owe us far less than we owe God.

We have never been wronged as we have wronged God.

Note how the forgiven on treated his fellow servant.

Too often we forget how much we have been forgiven.

3. THE FELLOW SERVANTS AND THEIR FAITHFULNESS (VS. 31)

Matthew 18:31

³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

When seeing how the forgiven was treating his fellow servant they were very sorry.

Sadly some are glad when others fail, these were sad.

Note:

They didn't take matter into their own hands.

They didn't call public attention to this wrong.

They went only to their lord and told Him.

So many today have been destroyed or nearly destroyed because instead of covering the transgression they repeat the matter.

Close:

We must forgive because we have been forgiven.

Note the results of failing to forgive.

Matthew 18:32-35

³² 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? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Remember:

When God commands that we forgive He doesn't call on us to renounce our rights, but rather we have no right to examine the matter. In asking and accepting forgiveness we pledge ourselves to show it.