

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study for July 8, 2021

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Title: "The Necessity of Forgiveness"

Scripture Reference: Mark 11:25-26

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Comment: This lesson follows our last time together where we looked at the topic of "Anger" and through the leading of the Holy Spirit, I believe that this lesson is appropriate.

I. Introduction

A. In his book "Unconditional" Brian Zahnd asks these questions:

1. So what is your story?
2. Who has been cruel to you?
3. What injustice have you suffered?
4. How have you been mistreated?
4. Who has cheated you? Abused you? Lied on you?

B. Maybe it was last week or many years ago, but the fact is, something like this has happened in your life.

C. With these questions before us, I want to put forth two more questions:

1. Is it easy to forgive? And then a rhetorical question -
2. Is it even possible to forgive?

D. Perhaps you have heard someone say or maybe you have said: "I'll forgive, but I'll never forget."

E. Many years ago, I had the pleasure of attending the very first conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors (of which I am member) and I listened to one of the featured speakers by the name of Dr. Everett Worthington, who was at that time teaching at the University of Virginia.

F. Following that conference, I read an article about Dr. Worthington's elderly mother who was brutally beaten, raped, and left alone to slowly bleed to death by an enraged burglar. Dr. Worthington subsequently said the following:

"Sometimes people have a hard time admitting that they aren't forgiving a person who hurt them. They think that forgiving is a matter of saying certain words (like - "I forgive you") but there is a heart by-pass. Being able to say words is a step in the right direction, but the Lord really wants our hearts touched."

G. At the core, forgiveness is releasing a debt. We must choose not to harbor the hurt and anger. We must trust the Lord and let it go. Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." (Philippians 3:13)

H. When we let go, we open the door for healing and maybe, reconciliation.

III. Exposition [Part I] - (Mark 11:25-26) (Context Vv 20-24)

A. In verses 20-24, Jesus is speaking to His disciples the following morning after they had left the temple and were coming out of the city. As they journeyed along, they passed a fig tree that had dried up from the roots.

B. It was Peter who remembered that Jesus had cursed the tree that had now withered away. Jesus answered, and in essence He told Peter and the disciples what I like to call "mountain moving faith." Jesus said that if they did not doubt in their hearts, but

believe the things that they desire, when they pray, they shall receive the.

C. In Mark 11:25, Jesus said, "And when ye stand praying" This was the traditional Jewish prayer position (Cf. 1 Sam. 1:26; 1 Kings 8:14, 22; Neh. 9:4).

D. Kneeling or lying with your face to the ground were used during extraordinary circumstances or for extremely urgent requests (1 Kings 8:54; Ezra 9:5; Dan. 6:10; Matt. 26:39; Acts 7:60).

E. Mark 11:25 (continued) - "... and if ye have ought (anything) against any (anyone) ..." This is an all-inclusive statement that includes both sins and simple dislikes which causes the believer to hold something against another person.

Comment: Anyone includes believers as well as unbelievers.

F. Jesus wants us to know that our on-going duty is to have an attitude of forgiveness.

Point: Successful prayer requires forgiveness as well as faith.

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

G. Some people will say mean and hurtful things to you and about you; some will also insult you, and the sad part of it is that some people just don't care. Jesus experienced all of this.

Points:

- (1) It only takes one to forgive.
- (2) When we forgive, it breaks the poisonous cycle of revenge and allows you to walk in peace.

- (3) When you forgive, you can have peace in your heart, even if the other person won't forgive.

H. In Mark 11:25 Jesus gives us our motivation to forgive - our Father who is in heaven will forgive us. Thank you, Lord!

IV. Exposition [Part II] - The Necessity of Forgiveness (Vs 26)

A. Let us first just say, Thank You Lord for the forgiveness of our sins. With that in mind, will you forgive? If not, why not?

B. If you say that you are a child of God and a disciple of the Living Christ, let's be sure to follow His example. Consider what Luke records in Luke 23:33-34 - "And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

C. The people were not aware of the full scope of their wickedness. They did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. They were blind to the light of divine truth.

D. Paul records in 1 Corinthians 2:8b - "for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

E. Jesus want us to know that Forgiveness is a Necessity!

V. Summary

A. On this past Sunday (as we do every First Sunday of each month), we celebrate the Lord's Supper. I want to plead with you and even reflect on the past for just a moment. (Please listen carefully.)

B. It is recognized that we cannot change what has happened in the past, but if you participated in Holy Communion (i.e., the Lord's

Supper) without asking God for forgiveness of your sins, please don't attempt to move forward without doing so right now.

C. I plead with each of you, if the Lord shall spare our lives, **do not** come to the Lord's Supper, sit through a Worship Service, a Bible Study, or any other gathering together of the people of God, with hatred, anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness in your heart. In fact, if the Lord allows, don't start the day, and retire for the night with any of these things in your heart.

D. Maintaining unforgiveness in your heart will be an act of sin, simply because we will be doing so in disobedience to God.

Point: Disobedience to God is in fact sin!

F. Thank You dear God for the sacrifice of Jesus, who died on our behalf so that we might have the forgiveness of sin.

G. Please don't forget, Forgiveness is Necessary. Through the Word of God, the Lord has spoken - so let the Church say - Amen!

It is once again interactive time. Please fill in the blank spaces to complete the biblical passages that follow. As always, each passage has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"Give us this _____ our daily _____. And _____ us our _____, as we _____ our _____.

[Matthew 6:11,12]

"So shall ye say unto Joseph, _____, I pray thee now, the _____ of thy brethren, and their _____; for they did unto thee _____: and now, we pray thee, _____ the _____ of the servants of the God of thy _____. And Joseph _____ when they spake unto him."

[Genesis 50:17]

"And Moses _____ unto the Lord, and said, Oh this _____ have _____ a great _____, and have made them _____ of _____. Yet now, if thou will _____ their sin; and if not, _____ me, I pray thee out of thy _____ which thou hast written."

[Exodus 32:31,32]

"For thou, Lord, art _____, and ready to _____; and _____ in mercy unto all them that _____ upon thee."

[Psalm 86:5]

"If thou, Lord _____ mark _____, O Lord, who shall _____? But there is _____ with thee, that thou _____ be _____."

[Psalm 130:3,4]

"Be it known unto you, therefore, men and _____, that _____ this man is preached unto you the _____ of sins."

[Acts 13:38]

Questions For You To Consider

1. Did you at one time or another say that you have forgiven someone but reflecting back on it, you really did not truly forgive?
2. If you answered that question yes, what will you now do about it?
3. Has a past hurt or pain made it exceedingly difficult for you to forgive but now that you know how God feels about the lack of forgiveness, how will you handle future situations of hurt and pain?

Thank you for joining in another Bible study session and my prayer is that the Lord will grant you His Love, Peace, and Mercy as you remember - Forgiveness is Necessary.

Jude 3
Pastor Austin