

FORGIVENESS

Text: Matthew 6:12

I. The Purpose of Forgiveness: Fellowship

Family fellowship with God depends on family fellowship with one another. Our relation to the Father is affected by our relation to others of His children. Notice how many horizontal and vertical relationships are interrelated in the Bible. This is the point of Matthew 6:12.

II. The Precept for Forgiveness: Ephesians 4:32

III. The ^{Priority} Practice of Forgiveness, Matthew 5:21-26

A. The Danger in not forgiving, vv. 21-22

B. The Duty to forgive quickly, vv. 23-26 (cf. Eph. 4:26)

IV. A Parable of Forgiveness, Matthew 18:21-35

A. The Inquiry of Peter, vv. 21-22

B. The Illustration, vv. 23-34

C. The Intent of the Illustration, v. 35

V. A Picture of Forgiveness, John 13:1-17

A. The Motive Behind Footwashing

B. The Meaning of Footwashing

C. The Method of Footwashing

1. Silently

2. Submissively
3. Sensibly
4. Sufficiently

VI. Some Problems in Forgiveness

- A. Who Takes the Initiative--the One Wronged
- B. Who Need to Be Forgiven--Those in Circles Closest to Us
- C. Is Forgiving Excusing? Do I Condone When I Forgive?
- D. Can There Be True Forgiveness If Restrictions Follow?
 1. Psalm 99:8
 2. Deuteronomy 3:27
 3. 1 Samuel 13:13

VII. A Procedure for Forgiveness

- A. Recognize the Need to Forgive (even if you are ^{or are not} the one wronged)
- B. Forgive in Your Own Heart First (beware of bitterness)
- C. Let the Other Party(ies) Know If Appropriate
 1. Will it edify?
 2. What prompts me to go? You can show forgiveness as well as say

it.

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Intro. Bible reflects many of our relationships with God in our relationships with man. Love for God in love for man

1. Jn. Giving to God in giving to man, 2 Cor 8. *human will X*
Forgiveness with God by forgiveness to man. Family *in husband-wife*
relationship not salvation, but imp't part of Xn living and an invariable principle. Subj: Principle for forgiveness

Family Fellowship with God depends on family fellowship with one another.
I. The Principle in Precept, Mt 5:21-26 *to the other children*

- A. The Danger, 21-22. Law of murder. Starts with anger, rancor (spit out) = fool. Then too far gone. 1 Jn 3:15. Don't start down the road. Likewise don't harbor unforgiven thing.
- B. The Duty, 23-26. In rel realm. In secular realm, 25. (1) Unforgiving one can't expect forgiveness (2) and will lead to worse things-judgment.

II. Principle in Parable, Mt 18:21-35

- A. The Inquiry, 21-22. Rabbis said forgive 3x. By saying 7 Peter that showing self very worthy. Showed pride really, and not humility. X says unlimited forgiveness is real humility.
- B. The Illus. 23-34 *10-12 mill of money \$120-124 Mill. 10,000 of denars VS 100 denars*
\$10,000,000 vs \$25 (several 3 months wages).
- C. The Intent, *Both Bible & Jesus*
1. Forgiving father ought to be copied by His children, 32-33
2. Get horizontal relationships right. Unforgiving one can't expect to be forgiven, 35.

III. The Principle in Picture, Jn 13:1-17

- Before discovering meaning of footwashing look at--
- A. Motive, 13:1. Bec He loved. Never begin unless this is there. Unqualified to wash unless love.
- B. Meaning--X keeping us clean in His intercession. *showing His forgiveness to us against the world*
But the precept is v 14--keep each other's relationship clean.. Forgive each other. That's what X does when He washes us and that's what we do when one another.
- C. Method. 1. Silently. No trumpets blaring. "I'm about to wash so-and-so's feet--the so-and so".
2. Submissively--Have to get down low. Not lord it over
3. Sensibly--warm water, not hot
4. Sufficiently--use towel or get mud. Complete forgiveness.

Praying

IV. The Principle in Prayer, Mt 6:12

- A. The Principle. Ask God's forgiveness on basis of forgiveness of one another.
- B. The Prerequisite. For-as we have forgiven. We forgive first then ask.

Concl.

Principle--Fellowship with God depends on fellowship with one another. Forgiveness with God on forgiving one another.

- 1. Not a matter of his seeing his wrong. If I see it and consider it a wrong then it is my duty to forgive whether he admits it or not.
- 2. This concerns those closest to us--not those far away. Those with whom we deal. Not forgiving the Methodists bec you think they're wrong or the independents or anybody out there. Means fellow-students. Teachers. Pastor. Ch members.
- 3. This doesn't mean I condone or approve but it does mean I forgive genuinely so no harboring or personal feelings that result in root of bitterness. If you don't have an openness of feeling (not agreement nec) then harboring.
- 4. Then can come to Lord on this day of prayer and expect real evident answers bec praying in real unity....

3h. Not nec. + pr.

This is of immediate urgency
 Eph 4:26 - evening? Mt 6:12 - is a morning prayer.
 Prerequisites for effective day of prayer.
 Right with God in order to have prayer
 Right with men " " " " be right with God

Not present
 BJS
 X. with coin
 Hart
 yankin
 Lanchin
 Mordy
 IFCATS
 Adams
 Disover
 RT Henson
 Roche 03