

JESUS THE MASTER TEACHER #6 - HE TEACHES ON FORGIVENESS

LUKE 17:1-4 / (EPHESIANS 4:30-32)

Forgiveness means to cover, to put away, to disregard, or to forget. A forgiving spirit is one of the Christian Graces.

- I. WE MUST GUARD AGAINST OFFENDING (Vs. 1-2)
 - A. It is in our nature to offend others
 1. We often offend God in our sin (1 JOHN 1:8)
 2. Jesus said it's IMPOSSIBLE for them not to come
 3. We offend others by actions or speech
 - B. Immature Christians easily offended MARK 4:17
 - C. Be mature in Christ - don't be offended (Vs. 1-2)
 1. A WOE upon a Christian who offends another
 2. We are to guard against giving or taking offense

- II. WE MUST READILY FORGIVE OFFENSES (Vs. 3-5)
 - A. We are to forgive INSTANTLY (Vs. 3)
 1. We may not hold grudges - God doesn't!
 2. We need not wait to be asked
 - B. We are to forgive REPEATEDLY (Vs. 4)
 - C. We are to forgive as a Christian (Vs. 5)
 1. Stephen is a Bible example ACTS 7:54-60
 2. Jesus is (naturally) an example LUKE 23:34
 - D. An UNFORGIVING spirit is a sin before God
 1. Jesus teaches us this in parable MATT. 18:23-35
 2. Unforgiveness hinders our prayers (PSA. 66:18)
 - E. Not "forgetting" is not "forgiving" MATT. 18:21-22
 1. With OUR sins, He removes them (PSA. 103:12)
 2. OUR sins are cast into the sea (MICAH 7:19)

- III. WE MUST SEEK RECONCILIATION WITH OFFENDER
 - A. It is not enough to simply forgive - RECONCILE
 - B. Seek reconciliation before WORSHIPPING (MATT. 5:23-24)
 - C. We have a Bible model to follow in MATT. 18:15-19
 1. Seek reconciliation Privately (Vs. 15)
 2. Seek reconciliation Plurally (Vs. 16)
 3. Seek reconciliation Publicly (Vs. 17)
 4. Seek reconciliation PERSISTENTLY

CONCLUSION: We have no right, as Christians, to withhold our forgiveness from one another. We must forgive the offenses of others as Christ has forgiven our offenses against Him.

EPH. 4:30-32 - "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

1 JOHN 1:8 - "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

PSA. 66:18 - "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"

PSA. 103:12 - "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

MICAH 7:19 - "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

MATT. 5:23 - "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Mat 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."