

Top Ten Problem Solving Series

by Pastor Antonio M. Alfred

FORGIVENESS (Luke 17:3-10)

Introduction:

- Forgiveness is a character trait of the Holy Spirit.
 - His very presence in the life of a believer is evidence that God is willing to forgive sinners.
 - Once a person professes to believe and receive Jesus Christ, they are to pursue a life of love toward God and other.
 - Part of this new life in Jesus, involves the issue of forgiveness.
 - As you and I go in this message, ask yourself, “Am I free to forgive others as I have been forgiven.
- In Chapter 17, Jesus is preaching to tax collectors and sinners who drew near to him as well as to the Pharisees and the scribes who grumbled (complained) about his associations with sinners and his teachings.
 - In this chapter of Luke, Jesus opens with the need to forgive.
 - It is impossible but that offenses will come (v1)

Theme/Purpose:

- To help you forgive just as God through Christ forgave you, in order for you to be free from the pain of past sins, so that you can enjoy the freedom of forgiveness.

[In Luke 17, Christ gives a series of instructions to His disciples on Forgiveness]

This material is adopted from the Christian Counselors New Testament by J. Adams and A Homework Manual for Biblical Living by W. Mack

I. Jesus says that we must be willing to forgive.

- A. We must grant forgiveness whenever a brother says that he repents.
- B. We must do so as often as he says that he repents (7 times a day)

II. Jesus accepts no excuses for failing to forgive.

A. Not "when he shows fruit appropriate to repentance."

- 1. Not required for brotherly forgiveness.
- 2. Seven times a day precludes the idea.
- 3. Must take him at his word: If he says, "I repent." Can judge words and actions; not heart. Give benefit of the doubt.

B. Not "when I get more-faith."

- 1. Not a matter of more faith; a question of obedience.
- 2. A faith as small as a mustard seed can do wonders.

C. Not "when I feel like it."

- 1. Slave tired and hungry.
- 2. Didn't feel like preparing and serving meal before resting and eating.
- 3. Did anyway, because his lord commanded. Not hypocrisy to obey God against feeling (you do this when you get up in the morning).
- 4. Do against feeling, to please God.

III. Jesus says forgive because He commands it.

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- A. Forgive out of love for Christ.
- B. Forgiveness is a promise that can be made and kept regardless of fruit, faith, or feeling. The promise: "I will remember your sins against you no more."
- C. The promise involves three things:
 - 1. I won't raise these matters with you again.
 - 2. I won't tell others about them.
 - 3. I won't dwell on them in my own mind.
- D. Keeping this promise leads to forgetting.

Conclusion

REMEMBER: WHEN YOU FORGIVE, EACH OFFENCE IS NOT THE SEVENTH, FIFTH, ETC.; IT IS ALWAYS THE FIRST. WE FORGIVE BECAUSE WE ARE FORGIVEN PEOPLE. HOW MANY TIMES GOD HAS FORGIVEN US! IF THE OFFENDER DOESN'T RESPOND, START THE PROCESS OF MATT. 18:15FF.