

He (*Christ*) came as the Physician to the spiritually sick, as the Redeemer to the captives of sin, as the Way to those who had wandered afar off, as the Life to the dead in trespasses and sins, and as a Saviour to the lost.—Johann Gerhard

The Harm of Not Forgiving

Matthew 5:23-24 (GW) ²³“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and remember there that another believer has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift at the altar. First go away and make peace with that person. Then come back and offer your gift.

1) Why do you think Jesus ties the need for forgiveness from a believer with presenting an offering to God?

Forgiveness restores the present, heals the future, and releases us from the past. - David Augsburger

2) Do you agree with this statement?

3) How is this true of your being forgiven?

4) How is it true of your forgiving others?

Matthew 18:32-35 (GW) ³²“Then his master sent for him and said to him, ‘You evil servant! I canceled your entire debt, because you begged me. ³³Shouldn’t you have treated the other servant as mercifully as I treated you?’

³⁴“His master was so angry that he handed him over to the torturers until he would repay everything that he owed. ³⁵That is what my Father in heaven will do to you if each of you does not sincerely forgive other believers.”

5) Why do you think the first man did not forgive the little debt owed him?

6) What happened to the first man?

7) What is the warning given to us about not forgiving?

Proverbs 28:13-14 (GW) ¹³ Whoever covers over his sins does not prosper. Whoever confesses and abandons them receives compassion. ¹⁴ Blessed is the one who is always fearful of sin, but whoever is hard-hearted falls into disaster.

8) What is the benefit of confessing our sins according to these verses?

9) What is the curse of not confessing our sins?

Matthew 6:12-15 (GW) ¹² Forgive us as we forgive others. ¹³ Don't allow us to be tempted. Instead, rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴ "If you forgive the failures of others, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failures.

10) What does Jesus say is the consequences of not forgiving others?

11) Why do you think he said this after teaching the Lord's Prayer?

Mark 11:24-25 (GW) ²⁴ That's why I tell you to have faith that you have already received whatever you pray for, and it will be yours. ²⁵ Whenever you pray, forgive anything you have against anyone. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your failures."

12) Why does Jesus link forgiving others to having faith and prayer?

13) If it seems that God is not hearing/answering your prayers, according to Matthew 11:24-25, what could be the reason?

Luke 6:37-38 (GW) ³⁷ "Stop judging, and you will never be judged. Stop condemning, and you will never be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and you will receive. A large quantity, pressed together, shaken down, and running over will be put into your pocket. The standards you use for others will be applied to you."

14) What does Jesus tell us to stop doing? Why?

15) What does Jesus tell us to do? Why?

16) Based on the sermon and this study, what is the harm of living unforgiven?

17) What is the harm of not forgiving others?