

# Forgiveness

## Removing a brass heaven

Intro: Luke 17:1 **Offense** (Scandalan-snare) will come, and it is satan's trap Matthew 24:10.  
The offended heart is breeding ground for deception (Mt 24:10)  
This is one of satan's main devices (2 Cor 2:5-11)

### 1. Offense leads to unforgiveness and unforgiveness leads to bitterness

**Mark 11:25.** "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions. 26. "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

- a. Unforgiveness produces a brass heaven over someone's life
  - b. Unforgiveness causes a heart to grow cold, indifferent, and unloving
  - c. Once bitterness sets in, it leads to hatred and betrayal
- ### 2. When betrayal or offense comes our way, we must act quickly to release forgiveness
- a. Matthew 5:25-26 or satan will have gained a foothold in our lives
  - b. Bitterness will begin to set in if we don't
  - c. This is a daily examining the heart Luke 11:1-4 Lord's Prayer

### 3. Personal observations

- a. I have seen generational bitterness (inherited iniquity)
- b. Bitterness is linked with infirmity and death
- c. Overly sensitive people (easily offended) have forgiveness issues and unhealed wounds

### 4. Prison Matt 18:21-35

21. Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"
22. Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
23. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
24. "And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents.
25. "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.
26. "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.'
27. "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.
28. "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'
29. "So his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'
30. "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.
31. "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.
32. "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me.
33. 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?'
34. "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.
35. "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

- a. Prison: heart walls, isolation
- b. Tormentors: demons
- c. Eternity in hell if there is not repentance

### 5. What is true forgiveness

- a. No longer retain someone's sins against them
- b. Don't harbor resentment anymore
- c. No longer remember the offense or dwell on it
- d. We must not judge, but give it to God to repay 2 Tim 4:14. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.
  - i. God will reward them for their works good or evil
  - ii. It may be a purging, pruning, or knocking the rough edges out of your life, and is actually sent by God
  - iii. It is God's job to avenge, not ours Rom 12:19-21

### 6. We can crucify one hand and our feet, but someone else has to help us crucify our free hand

and experience true death. We cannot judge if abuse, betrayal, and offense is from God or the devil because our emotions are too tied into it when we are hurt. We must let God take care of it, and we must keep a pure heart of forgiveness.

7. This requires a daily walk of death to self 1Cor 15:31. A dead person cannot be offended, or harbor resentment, and will live a life hidden in Christ.
8. Remember the Lord's prayer and check daily for unforgiveness
9. You have been hurt, how to you respond
  - a. Get a pen and paper and write down every person who has ever hurt you (examine ancestry as well.)
  - b. Pray and forgive
  - c. Ask God for a forgiving heart and love for that person
  - d. Begin to pray for that person Luke 6:27-31
  - e. You MAY need to go to them, but you may not Matt 5:23-24
10. Let there be a free flow of the anointing Prov 4:23
11. The way the church has not forgiven those that have fallen
  - a. Look at Peter
  - b. Jezebel and Ahab root problem in this nation