

Following Jesus Example in Forgiveness

"1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. 3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. 4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. 5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place. 6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. 7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. 8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. 9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. 11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. 12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves. 13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: 15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. 16 I will therefore chastise him, and release him. 17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) 18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: 19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) 20 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. 21 But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. 22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. 23 And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. 24 And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. 25 And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will. 26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. 27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. 28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. 29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. 30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. 31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? 32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. 33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. 36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, 37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. 38 And a

superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." (Luke 23:1-39 KJV)

Christ suffered on the cross for our sins to save us and give us eternal life. He left us an example that we need to follow in His steps, **"21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."** (1 Peter 2:21-23 KJV) Jesus passed through the experience of the cross and overcome because He adopted the attitude of forgiveness. **Forgiveness is God's way to save people and the way for people to enter the Kingdom of God. When there is forgiveness, God delight in that, and His Holy Spirit will be there to help things to be orchestrated and happen as ordained by His will.**

Jesus offered himself on the cross through the Holy Spirit as we can read on **Hebrews 9:14 KJV** **"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"** And the point that we need to emphasized to you that when you go along the will of God you will find the Holy Spirit there to assist you and to help you to do that particular task. Crucifixion is painful agonizing but Jesus was not alone, the Holy Spirit made that happened in a way glorified God. **Trials and temptations and the hurts that we may receive from the people and the circumstances around us may cause us much pain, losses and disturbances, but as we have the attitude of forgiveness in our hearts we are in this way inviting the Holy Spirit to accompany us and help us to pass through it all.**

When you read the stories of the early church leaders and the missionaries who underwent persecution and were executed for Christ, they truly passed through painful times but they were not alone and they were helped because they adopted the right attitude of forgiveness to those who persecuted them.

Jesus on the cross after his crucifixion He prayed the following: **"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."** (Luke 23:34 KJV) But to whom He offered prayer that God the Father would forgive them their sins?

Whom you need to forgive: From the events of Jesus' crucifixion, you can learn who are the people who had hurt Jesus and in which way. From the events of Jesus' crucifixion, you will be able to see who are the people who hurt you and in which way. With such you will understand events in your life in a better way in order for you to deal with them appropriately. **Forgiveness needed to be directed to the following categories of people:**

1. Jealous and envious people: The high and the chief priests with the Pharisees were the people who plotted against Jesus because of their envy and Jealousy. **People who are envious and jealous of you might hurt you with their jealousy; those you need to forgive.**

2. Non faithful and non committed people: When Jesus was arrested all his disciples left Him, including those who affirmed to Him that they will not leave Him even if it caused them death. **People who promised you certain things and they left you especially in times of your troubles and they let you down, they are the people who caused you hurt; those you need to forgive.**

3. People who are hypocrites and delight in politics: When Jesus was arrested, he was brought to Pilate to be sent to death. Now Pontus Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent and out of envy the Jews wanted to execute Him. But because he wanted to please them he agreed with them. **The governors and authorities who do not practice justice and give you your rights they are harming you and you need to forgive them.**

4. People whom you are not meeting their expectations: Two criminals were crucified with Jesus. One of them was hurling insults on Jesus because he was expecting Him to help them. In the same way **people may insult you and speak bad to you or because you did not do what they want from you; those people you need to forgive.**

5. People who are hungry to get things from the world: The Roman soldiers treated Jesus without mercy and without consideration; they pierced his hands and feet. After they crucified Him they shared with themselves His clothes, **“And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” (Luke 23:34 KJV)** **People who steal from you and take by force what belong to you without considering your interest they are harming you; those people you need to forgive.**

6. People who are illiterate and powerless: The crowd who shouted to Pilate and requested him to crucify Jesus they were illiterate people without any power and were enslaved by the chief priests and the Pharisees. **People who are of illiterate and powerless category they might be used by others to harm you, therefore you need to forgive them.**

7. People who take advantage of your suffering and they got relieved of their due punishment: Barabbas was released at the cost of Jesus sent to death. **Sometimes your privileges are withhold from you and be given to wicked people who do not deserve them. Such people you need to forgive.**

8. Yourself: Jesus was arrested in a place called Gethsemane with the help of one of His disciples. Somebody would say, ‘Why he did not deal with Judas before this would happen,’ or someone may say ‘Why he went to Gethsemane and why he did not go to other place?’ Certain times you are blaming yourself with the same way. **You are not the one at fault but at fault those who sinned against God and harmed you. Forgive yourself; because you have done your part.**

9. God: You might be tempted and say, ‘Why God did that, or why God made me a victim?’ **God is not at fault, but the people who harmed you. Do not be angry with God, for He did not do to you any harm.**

The description that we just discussed above is helpful for you so that you can see things in more clear way so you can practice forgiveness and be set free.

Now the followings are the possible things that you might be harmed and affected with and you need to forgive:

A. Material losses: Even Jesus’ clothes were taken away. Your material things and belonging might be taken by others.

B. Humiliation: Jesus was humiliated publicly. You might be named and accused badly to the public and get bad reputation. You might be considered and categorized among sinners or

criminals as Jesus was accused and categorized. **Isaiah 53:12** declares that Jesus was “... **and he was numbered with the transgressors...**” He was mocked, laughed on and they spat on His face.

C. Disturbances of plans and careers: When Jesus arrested, sure lot of things were interrupted and much turmoil was in the life of His disciples. When you are get trespassed and harmed by people and circumstances there are many things of yours might suffer; your plans, finances, schedules, work, relationship, family, etc.

D. Pain and body injuries: Jesus was beaten, flogged, carried His cross on His back, hurt by the crown of thorns, His hands and feet were pierced and was hung on the cross for three hours before He died. Those who hurt you may cause you illnesses or body injuries.

The fruit of Forgiveness: In spite of all these bad effects forgiveness has healing effect on your life and makes you whole and gives you relieve. As you practice forgiveness in dealing with the enemy’s attacks you will gain the following;

1. You will be lifted up and what will be in your mind is the same of God’s mind and thought: As Jesus was lifted up when He humbled Himself and accepted to suffer and die on the cross, you will be having clear mind and the same thoughts of God. **“5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.” (Philippians 2:5-9 KJV)** As you forgive you will be lifted to a Heavenly way of thinking and you will be seeing things in the same way as God and Christ see them; **Ephesians 2:6** declares to us the following **“6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6 KJV)**

2. Your path and plans will be replaced with Heavenly paths and plans: As you forgive those who had hurt you and had harmed you, God will lift you up and open your eyes and mind to see the new path that He had placed you in. After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven to be seated on the right hand of God the Father. Therefore, **“5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” (Romans 6:5 KJV)**

3. As you forgive, God will do things beyond your thoughts or sights: When Jesus was hang on the cross, at that moment after crucifixion when He forgave those people who harmed Him, the situation was complicated from all aspects, but the Lord worked it out that all things went well in accordance to God’s will and plan. You might be passing through a complicated situation that beyond what you can bear or fix, but as you release your forgiveness to those who hurt you, the Lord God will work it for your good, **“9 However, as it is written: “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV)**

My dear and beloved: "13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."(Colossians 3:13 KJV)

Forgiveness means and requires the followings:

- Humility.
- Fully surrender to God by giving up your own will and plan.
- Loving God.
- Fully trusting God.
- Willingness to suffer for God's sake.
- Forgetting what is behind so you can go freely with what God had prepared for you of good plan and the good work of God.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word in doing your will. Lord I forgive those who hurt me and did me wrong _____ . Lord they did not know what they were doing. Lord help me to forget the past events and open my eyes to see the path that you had opened to me to pursue. Lord I thank you for restoring me and adding me blessings and joy. Lord I pray for my brothers and Sisters that you will heal their hearts and help them to forgive those who hurt them and caused them harm. Lord let your Word brings the fruit you desire to see in life of each and every one of them and in the life of your church. Lord give us more fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, self control, gentleness, kindness, and long suffering. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will feel no pain. May the grace of Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Following Jesus Example in Forgiveness. Luke 23:1-39. 1 Peter 2:21-23. Isaiah 53:12. Philipians 2:5-9. Ephesians 2:6. Romans 6:5. 1 Corinthians 2:9. Colossians 3:13.

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