

"HE" WILL IF WE WILL

Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 18:21-22

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Sadly we carry into our Christian "world" habits, customs, "norms" of our human nature world attitudes such as forgiveness. It is hard for us to "forgive" as Jesus instructs His followers to forgive for it's just not "natural" to do it like He says. We carry into our Christian life the belief that "sure, Jesus will forgive us, but only for a while, then enough is enough." We stop asking for forgiveness after we keep on doing the same old bad things over and over again and again, daring not to ask the Lord to forgive us again, for after all, we wouldn't.

When we sin so much and stop asking for forgiveness, thinking that Jesus is tired of forgiving us for the same old sins, then we only get into more and deeper sin and thinking that Jesus won't forgive us anymore is a sin in itself. Jesus had much to say about forgiveness.

I. SINCERETY IS NECESSARY FOR FORGIVENESS TO BE GIVEN

1. Jesus gives different guidelines for different kinds of sins.

- Jesus does not mean that if a person attempts to rob, steal or to kill us seven times in one day that we must forgive that person and let him/her go unpunished.
- We are to forgive "trespasses" which are more private, such as a sudden passion, lost temper, harsh words, unkind treatment by friends, relatives, things that hurt and wound our feelings.
- We are to forgive these kind of sins, IF/WHEN the offender expresses sorrow and asks us for forgiveness.
- These and similar sins which we commit against the Lord Jesus are the sins He says can be forgiven seven times seventy or as often as the guilty one, in sincerity, apologizes and asks to be forgiven.
- We trespass against the very ONE who came to earth to become one of us that He might become the way for us be made right with God, the Father, and to have eternal life.
 - No Christian "trespasses" deliberately but all of us do and do so frequently, openly.
 - These offenses, which we repeat so often, grieve and offend the Lord, He will always forgive IF THEY ARE NOT deliberately, willfully done.

2. As Jesus forgives us upon our sincere, repentance, so He requires us to do the same to those who trespass against us.

- Jesus knows our heart, knows our sincerity when we go to Him asking for forgiveness.
- However, we do not know the sincerity, the heart of those who trespass against us and then come asking to be forgiven, but we must forgive, when they seem to be sincere and honest.

3. "Forgiveness" is applied in two ways.

- Forgiveness is the official act of granting immunity to deserved punishment and can be done so only by the one who has authority to do so.
 - One person cannot forgive somebody for something done to somebody else.
- Forgiveness is the laying aside all feelings of revenge, ill will and displeasure against the offender and restoring him/her to the place of favor which he/she held before the trespass.
- Upon forgiveness, Jesus keeps no feelings of displeasure toward that person but restores him/her to His favor as if he/she had never trespassed against Him.

- Who of us is not ashamed to ask Jesus for forgiveness for we have trespassed so often against Him and have been forgiven, restored as if we had never trespassed.
 - It causes us to be ashamed to ask the Lord Jesus to intercede again and again and again, to help make things right again.
- Let us be convinced/reminded that Jesus has adopted His own rule of forgiveness and that He wants us, His Children to do as He does.

II. HOW CAN JESUS EXPECT US TO FORGIVE AS HE DOES?

1. Jesus lives by His/this rule of forgiveness.

- **Being born a human being as we are, Jesus is in human terms our brother.**
 - Jesus has become one of us, a brother in human flesh, we may be assured that He will remain as one of us, human, and continue to be a brother, binding Himself to our "nature."
 - Jesus is able to forgive those who trespass against Him upon their repentance, as often as they come to Him for forgiveness, no matter how often the trespass is committed.
- **In becoming a man, Jesus has assumed our nature.**
 - Jesus was "made under the law," subject to the same authority and obligations to obey it as all other human beings.
 - As a man, it was necessary for Jesus to be baptized, to identify with and obey every divine precept, which included the requirement of forgiving the trespass of one who sincerely asks for forgiveness.
 - Jesus kept every law and did only that which was right, therefore He requires the same of us.
- **When Jesus came into this world, He came as the Savior, teacher and guide of mankind.**
 - Jesus taught not only by word, but by example.
 - An example must be perfect in all respect.
 - Therefore for Jesus to teach and require forgiveness, He must exhibit that which He taught/commands, teaches, a readiness to forgive and to repeat forgiveness as needed.
 - If Jesus requires us to forgive when asked, sincerely, of one's trespasses against us, seven times seventy, then He will do the same to us and to any who have sinned/trespassed against Him.

2. Jesus started living up to His rule of forgiveness before He commanded others to do it, too.

- How often Jesus' disciples trespassed against Him, yet He was always ready to forgive them when they asked to be forgiven.
- How often has Jesus forgiven YOU through the years you have been a Christian?
- There is no reason for any of us (Christians) to not believe that Jesus won't keep on forgiving us when we trespass against Him.
- Nothing can melt one's heart more quickly and cause one to be ashamed of his/her sins, and to bring him/her into deep repentance, increase his/her confidence in the Lord Jesus than to just think about how many times Jesus has already forgiven him/her.
- How Jesus has returned blessings after being treated so unkind, cruel, ungrateful and neglect.
 - Who of us are not guilty of such behavior?
- Does Jesus ask too much to forgive others as often as He forgives us/you?

CONCLUSION:

1. *"...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..."*
2. Has not the Lord forgiven YOU countless times, even in a single day?
3. Isn't it hard to keep on asking the Lord to forgive you again and again, time after time?
4. Christian, Jesus asks/commands us to do the same for our friends, relatives, anybody who hurts us, upsets us, says bad things about us, mistreats us, ignores us, etc., as He does for us - forgive them when they in all sincerity come and apologize and ask for forgiveness.
- Christian, when we do "forgive" we must do as Jesus, and remember what they did to us
NO MORE.....
5. Jesus will keep on forgiving us our trespasses, IF we will do the same to others who trespass against us.