

GOD AND MAN DON'T THINK ALIKE

Isaiah 55:8, 9

Introduction: Every person has his/her own concept of God but nobody every thinks like God in all matters. God made mention of that fact a long time ago. Therefore many have a problem in trusting God or loving God because they just don't understand how or why God forgives some people whom they wouldn't. God says Christians should be quick to forgive and Jesus said as much as 70 times 7. How in the world does God forgive all the time when He's been hurt so much by the very ones He forgives?

I. MAN'S THOUGHTS ABOUT FORGIVENESS

1. "I could probably forgive if it was just things involved, but it was against me personally and deliberately."
 - Even though the very same thing happens to God over and over, He still forgives.
2. "If it was an accident or the person was only trying to do better, then I might be able to forgive him/her."
 - God forgives regardless what the reason for one's sin.
3. "Forgive? If it was the first time, but this has happened over and over again and again."
 - People repeat the same sins over and over again and again, yet God will blot them out instantly.
4. "I can't see what I've done to cause this, so what's there to forgive?"
 - God does only good to His children, and still He is quick to forgive their sins.
5. "I was never 'thanked' the last time I forgave, there's just no gratitude, so why should I forgive again?"
 - How many times has God forgiven the same person? Where was their gratitude? Yet God still forgives.
6. "If there was any sign of change for the better, then perhaps I could forgive again."
 - God is not like that. He forgives over and over in spite of one's failures to overcome sin and to live as he/she should.
7. "For what I've been put through somebody owes me some compensation, then maybe I just might forgive."
 - What can one give God in payment for all the hurt he/she caused Him?
 - God forgives completely when one does all he/she can do: repent and confess.
8. "How can I forgive? I keep seeing it happen over and over again and again in my mind."
 - No one can go back and undo or redo what has been done or not done.
 - God will always forgive but one must face the consequences of what he/she has done.

9. "I am being laughed at and made fun of. If nobody knew about what happened, then maybe I could forgive, but every knows what happened."
 - A person's sins are not secret to God, yet He still forgives.
10. "They don't want my forgiveness. They just laugh at me. I've tried, so don't expect me to do any more."
 - Thankfully God is not like man. He continues to offer forgiveness even when man is not interested in it.

II. GOD'S WAY OF FORGIVENESS AND PARDON

1. "Let's get this over with God, just tell me I'm forgiven and I'll be on my way."
 - Sin is a big thing with God. He punished angels who sinned, therefore all sin will be punished, regardless who sinned.
2. "God can just punish me in some way and I'll be on my way."
 - There's nothing that a person can do to atone for his/her sins for it takes someone perfect.
3. "If God will blot out my past, give me a new start, and all will be well."
 - The Bible says nothing like that. Man is born in sin and will die in sin as he/she cannot keep all of God's law. Sooner or later sin will happen again and again.
4. "God can forgive me of my past, give an easier set of rules to keep, like going to church, tithing, reading the Bible, praying and even singing in the choir and I'll be alright."
 - God doesn't forgive just a part of one's lives, but the entire life.
 - Jesus didn't die for part of one's sins, but for all sins and therefore God can give total unconditional forgiveness.

III. HAVING GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PARDON

1. "I've got to do something, this is too simple."
 - God's way is to trust Jesus and live. Believe in His Son, Jesus.
 - Man would make things very difficult, if not impossible and certainly not permanent, but God's ways are not man's ways, thankfully.
2. "This is too good to be true."
 - If people were handling God's forgiveness, yes, but God does His own forgiving.
3. It's too fast to last."
 - Remember, this is God, not people.
 - Only a single step from here into heaven - Believe, Pardoned forever.

CONCLUSION:

1. Forgiveness from God comes every time one goes to God in sincerity and confesses one's sins.
2. Anyone hesitant to go to God with his/her sins, remember God is different from people.
3. Be glad that God is in charge and not anybody else.