

What God says about . . .

Forgiving Others

(Matt 6:12, 14-15 NASV) 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.' . . . "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Jesus warns, what will happen if we do not forgive others?

(Prov 20:22 NASV) Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

What are we told not to do? And what should we wait for?

Consider Joseph's reply to his brothers who feared retribution for their sin against Joseph:

(Gen 50:19-21a NASV) But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid . . ."

How did Joseph look beyond the sin which his brothers committed against him?

Consider a king's response to his slave. The king had forgiven the slave an enormous debt. The slave in turn put a fellow slave in prison for a small debt.

(Matt 18:32-35 NASV) 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."

What had the unforgiving slave forgotten, which would have helped him to forgive?

According to verse 35, verbal forgiveness must also include what?

(Luke 17:3-4 NASV) "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

According to Jesus, is it permissible to confront someone who has sinned against you?

If a brother says, "I repent" (I'll change), how often should he be forgiven?

(Luke 6:27-29 NASV) "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either.

Precisely what sins are mentioned here?

What exactly should we do in response?

If you have any questions, please email Danny Jaekel at dannyjaekel@gmail.com.