FORGIVENESS

**(Mark 11:25-26)**

**Introduction:**

1. **Forgiveness Spoken About Often – Extensive Teachings in God’s Inspired Word.**
2. **The Devil Must Surely Delight**
3. **Brethren Need to Study the Teachings of God’s Word on the Matter of Forgiveness.** 
   1. Jesus taught more on this subject than water baptism, and the apostles found it necessary to admonish Christians to ***“forbear one another and forgive one another”*** (Col. 3:13).

**Discussion:**

1. **Need to Forgive**

# Quotes

* 1. The need for forgiveness is universal.
     1. The apostle Paul wrote (Gal 3:22).
     2. Along the same line, the apostle John concluded (1John 1:8-10).
  2. It is necessary that we not only recognize the scope of our guilt before God, but we must also have a forgiving heart.
     1. Jesus taught that we extend forgiveness ***“seven times a day”*** (Luke 17:4).
     2. He also taught in (Matt 18:22) ***“seventy times seven.”***
     3. Limitless is the idea!
     4. We will not be forgiven by our heavenly Father if we fail to forgive others their transgressions (Matt 6:14-15). We should forgive, on & on, those who sin and turn to us for forgiveness!

## Duty to Forgive

* 1. We are our brother’s keeper (also all others), and we have a responsibility to each other.
     1. (Matt 18:15)
     2. (Luke 17:3) ***“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”***
  2. On the other hand, we also have a responsibility: If a brother has something against us, we have an obligation to go and seek reconciliation. (Matt 5:23-24)
  3. According to this we have an obligation either way:
     1. If we have been transgressed against, we have an obligation to go, rebuke and try to restore.
     2. If on the other hand we know of one who has “aught” against us we have the responsibility to go and be reconciled.
  4. In many instances the hard, cold truth is the problem exists when the involved parties do not want them solved.
     1. Grudges are held without any desire or intent to forgive.
     2. Then there are offenders who have too much adamant, stubborn pride to repent.
     3. When conditions like this exist, unsolved problems may be expected to linger.
     4. However, when the parties want to reconcile, the problem will soon be amended. (Col 3:13).

### The Cost of Forgiveness (Psalm 79:8)

* 1. Frequently is the prayer offered, “Forgive our sins and remember them against us no more.” Yet, who of us has not heard one who claims to have forgiven another a trespass make the statement, “I’ll forgive, but I can’t forget.”
     1. Forgiveness is forgetfulness so far as ceasing to hold the person guilty of the offense, never to be laid to his charge again. There is finality about forgiveness when forgiveness is from the heart, and only such avails before God (Mat. 18:35).
        1. Earlier spoken to Jeremiah (Jer.31-34), The Hebrew writer reiterated in
        2. (Heb. 8:12) that God will remember iniquities no more!
     2. The person who forgives another will not ask, "Does this mean that I must shake his hand, go out the same door, speak to him, etc?"
     3. Just as God's forgiveness of our sins heals the breach between Him and us, so our forgiveness of the sins of another against us heals the breach that had existed.
  2. It is not only important that men have a forgiving attitude toward one another, but we all must receive forgiveness from God or else we will die in our sins and consequently, meet the Lord unprepared (see John. 8:21). In Revelation 21:27 we read, ***"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.***”
  3. To understand the importance of forgiveness, look to Calvary. Jesus Christ came into this wicked, sinful world, lived among men, died the shameful death on Calvary's cross for the sins of mankind. **Jesus died for us**.
     1. The Hebrew writer said ***"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."*** (Heb. 2:9). In another text, the apostle Paul wrote, ***"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."***  (1 Tim. 1:15).

### Conclusion:

### It comes around “full-circle” when we recognize our own debt and what God does for us. We should then be able to forgive others much easier,

### Alien sinners need forgiveness. In their state of alienation, they are lost. In describing their plight to the brethren at Ephesus, the apostle Paul explained, “*that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."* (Eph. 2:12).

### Do you forgive the way God intends?

### Your eternal after-life depends on it! (Mark 11:25-26)