

# Forgiveness

*“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”  
(Mathew 5:12)*

Just imagine this scene; somebody, a man or a woman, who is about to fall down from a top of a house and you are there at the edge of the wall holding that person, trying to bring him up because you don't want him to fall. But what is going on also, as you are holding him and want to help him not to fall, instead that he is holding your hands tightly, he has a knife in his hand and he is trying to injure you. He is trying to harm you while you are trying to take him up and save his life. In such atmosphere what you need to do then? If you continue to rescue this person trying to pull him up, he is hurting you and injuring you, but if you leave him and put your hands off, he is falling down and death is waiting for him there. At this point it is hard for you to decide and also you are in pain, in danger and threat from the person whom you want to help. There is no time even to think whether to continue to help that person or to disown him and let him go. But where he goes, he is falling, he will be crushed!

How you help a person who keep on hurting you and keep on doing things hinder you from forwarding your hands of help toward him. This where forgiveness finds its place in practice. The kingdom of God builds on forgiveness. God created man on His own image and He gave him authority to enjoy all what He created except not to eat from the fruit of forbidden tree. But man disobeyed God and left his high position that God had placed him in. Man offended God with what he did; he acted erroneously against God. As a consequence to what he did, he was driven away from the Garden of Eden. God clothe Adam and Eve with an animal skin and they were sent away from the garden, *“After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:24)*

But God did not forsake man and allow him to fall beyond return. God received the offense that man did against Him and He put forward the plan for man salvation; He forgave him, and He offered His Son for mankind, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)* Even when man hurt God, He received the offense and He did not piled up hatred and enmity in His heart, but continue to love man; He forgave man and He gave him His hand to hold him and bring him back to Him. God was still patient with man, He forgave and gave man opportunity to come back to Him and be saved.

Jesus Christ came from heaven, He offered Himself to save man from sin and death; He was beaten, mocked, flogged and even people spat on His face and spoke bad things against Him. But what was His response even toward those who nailed Him on the cross, *“Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.” (Luke 23:34)*

At the mid of His suffering and pain, if Jesus would not release His forgiveness toward those who nailed Him and toward all the people who abused Him there will be no salvation for them and they would be falling beyond return and no recovery for them. Jesus had mercy on them, He saw them falling deep in the pit of death; Jesus received their offenses, their beats and their enmity and He did not through them away. His heart was still in pain and agony toward those who hurt Him. He was in pain for them because He is seeing them falling down in sin and He had mercy on them.

The same would be for us, God forgave us all our sins at the cross of Jesus, and therefore we ought to forgive others with the same forgiveness that we receive from God. God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and give us the ministry of reconciliation: *“That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)* As Christ forgave us, He forgives all men their sins, not counting sin against them. We should take the same attitude of Christ in the way that we need to forgive our enemies. We are also called as ambassadors of Christ. We cannot carry the message of God, the message of reconciliation to the enemy of God and we still have pain and hatred in our hearts toward them.

Let us put it in this way: Those who harmed you they have harmed God, those who betrayed you they have betrayed God, those who spoke against you they spoke against God, and those who stole your money and taken it away they have taken it from God. *“For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” (Romans 15:3)* The offense they did against you it fell on Jesus, and the Lord God Himself will deal with them. *“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:17-21)* The Word of God teaching us how to overcome offences that the people had done against us. We don't need to pay evil for evil, this is not our responsibility. God will take care of such responsibilities; give room to God, He is the judge and He is the only one suitable to deal with the evil deeds. As an ambassador of Christ work for peace to bring the gospel once again to those who oppose you and oppose God's will and God's Word.

*My dear and Beloved, “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13)* This is the time to clean our hearts and minds by the blood of Jesus from acts that lead to death as we agree to pray and forgive those who hurt us as Christ forgave us.

*My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins. Lord I forgive \_\_\_\_\_, Father forgive them for they don't know what they are doing. I praise you Lord for the freedom that I received from your Word and the Holy Spirit. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*