

## 1 14 18 Forgive Us as We Forgive

### Invocation

Matt 6:14-15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:  
**15** But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Psalms 51:10-11 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from thy presence;

### Responsive Reading

#### Forgive Us as We Forgive

In the sermon on the mount Jesus gives the disciples the Lord's Prayer. Matt 6:12 is part of it. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Then He goes on after the prayer to say;

Matt 6:14-15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:  
**15** But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This might seem harsh because if we don't have our sins forgiven, we don't have eternal life and we still have the guilt associated with what we did that was wrong.

Forgiveness is the spirit of Heaven.

**This is real important**, here in lies the key, God forgives if we forgive. Many times, people have trouble with God that stems from this, they want the forgiveness and peace and joy of Jesus and His power in their lives but they can't have it because **they haven't let go of what someone else has done to them**. They aren't being forgiving to others. They want to put what others have wronged them, on a shelf so they can take it down later and think how bad it was. Then, focusing on it, continues to make them mad and depressed at what others did to them.

Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled.

For us to fail the grace of God is to miss His forgiveness and lose out on eternal life. What a loss? And it comes from what? Holding on to a wrong that someone did to us. Bitterness is a root that can grow into a huge tree and be in our way between us and God. As human, we have a huge tendency to do this without even giving it a second thought, it is pride and ego driven.

It seems that we have a good idea of what is right and wrong and when someone transgresses that norm we take it personally. Our nature **should be to forgive everyone for everything, all ways**.

The question comes to mind, is this an arbitrary rule of God or does this have a basis in something else? God is not arbitrary. His laws are based on His character of love. God is love, that is His nature. Forgiveness is part of love. If we want to spend eternity with Him we need to love also. Our relationships with others are more important than things in this world.

Heaven is a place of joy and harmony and peace. If you are holding a grudge against somebody, there is a hatred attached and a desire for revenge. Your human nature wants to see justice done and maybe even, you get reimbursed for what you lost. You are not in harmony or at peace with those who wronged you, if you are still holding a grudge. Total forgiveness needs to happen and we forget it, if we are to be clean. Then God is free to forgive us because when we get to Heaven, we will be at peace with all who are there.

If we have a hard time letting go of hurts, this is probably the right time for God's help.

Psalms 51:10-11 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from your presence. This prayer can be ours.

God understands human nature.

Rev 22:1-2 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

Our nature may need some healing when we get to Heaven but that healing will come. We all need to be one with everyone who is there.

It is in our normal human nature to want to hang on to the fact that someone hurt us and remember what they did, especially when it was a big thing. It is hard to totally forgive and forget. It takes God to change our heart and help us recognize that eternity and peace are worth more than everything here. In the grand scheme of things, what happens here is of little consequence. Heaven, us getting there and helping others get to there, is what is important, everything here will melt with fervent heat and be gone forever.

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

God wants us all in Heaven, eternity is a very long time. He wants us as His children. God has all the power in the universe and He could make us do anything but love is based on freedom. God gives us the freedom to choose what we want, even if it is the wrong choice, God will not force us to follow Him. We must do it willingly and from our own choice.

I have an old friend, who has been a Christian for many years. He is a soft-hearted man who tries to help wherever he can. He bought a large piece of property that had a limited access. The road that was deeded to this place wasn't flat, it went down into several gullies then back up on top. The problem was that in the winter time the snow would drift into the gullies. Then they would get plowed out and drift in again. It seemed that the wind up there never stopped blowing in that part of the world so the road was a constant fight. It so happened that the neighboring property was situated up on the flat land and the wind always blew the snow off so that road was always passable and never drifted shut but the man who owned that property didn't want to see development and since the road was on private property he had the right to limit its use. So, he would not let my old friend use the road. This insensitive act on the neighbor's part, made my friend very bitter. He just couldn't bring himself to forgive that guy. He had all kinds of bad names for him. They were not friends. This went on for many many years.

I spoke with my friend and he told me that he finally decided to forgive his neighbor and not carry that hatred any longer. He was telling me how nice it was not to have that burden any longer. I said to myself there is a God and He is truly gaining ground here. He could have given that up a long time ago and his life would have been much richer for it. Sometimes it is our own pride

and stubbornness that cause us trouble, when the solution is so simple and easy, just to forgive and let the situation go and reap the reward of peace.

There is an interesting concept here that I think we are missing. Usually the things that cause us to want to be bitter are costly or have to do with coveted relationships. God has allowed these things to come into our lives to teach us about our affections toward these things. Things are just things and have no eternal value but our hearts are often set on them. God is simply trying to open our eyes.

In closing

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus says forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.

Then He goes on to say that if we don't forgive, God won't forgive us.

If we aren't forgiven, we can't go to Heaven and we still have our sin and its guilt.

Our human nature wants us to hang on to the wrongs that people do to us.

But we can't have God's peace and forgiveness if we don't forgive.

Our relationships with others are more important than anything here on the earth.

Eternal life in Heaven, is the most important thing for us and others.

Our nature should be to forgive everyone, for everything, all ways.

Jesus is longsuffering wanting everyone to be saved. Jesus wants you in Heaven more than you do.

He loves you as His children with a perfect love.

God loves us and is watching over us, helping us to get to Heaven.