

## Forgive Even as Christ

February 8, 2015 AM

### Acts 7:54-60

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, **BEING FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST**, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and **SAW THE GLORY OF GOD**, and **JESUS STANDING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, **Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, **LORD, LAY NOT THIS SIN TO THEIR CHARGE**. And when he had said this, **HE FELL ASLEEP**.

*Forgiveness is supernatural, not natural.*

**1 John 4:7**

*"Beloved, let us love one another: **FOR LOVE IS OF GOD**; and **EVERY ONE THAT LOVETH IS BORN OF GOD**, and **KNOWETH GOD**."*

### 1 Peter 2:19-24

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, **SUFFERING WRONGFULLY**.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, **YE TAKE IT PATIENTLY, THIS IS ACCEPTABLE** (*bringing joy, pleasure & delight*) **WITH GOD**. [NAS – "...this finds favor with God."]

21 **FOR EVEN HEREUNTO WERE YE CALLED: BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS:**

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 **WHO, WHEN HE WAS REVEILED, REVEILED NOT AGAIN; WHEN HE SUFFERED, HE THREATENED NOT; BUT COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIM THAT JUDGETH RIGHTEOUSLY:**

*Forgiveness never complains, never holds a grudge, never seeks to retaliate, never seeks self-justification, never seeks to "settle the score".*

*Forgiveness rests in the trust that God will make all things right, it's not my place, not my "right" nor my responsibility.*

### 1 Peter 2:19-24

24 **WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED.**

***Forgiveness is choosing to bear the pain, the wounds and the suffering, caused by someone else, for the sake of restoration and relationship. God chose to bear in His own body in Jesus Christ our offense, our judgment, our wounds, our pain, our suffering so that He could forgive and restore us.***

***Would you want your stripes, your pain, your suffering to be used to heal the very one who wounded you?***

***Colossians 3:12-13***

*12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

*13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: **EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO DO YE.***

**Luke 15:11-32**

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 **AND HE AROSE, AND CAME TO HIS FATHER. BUT WHEN HE WAS YET A GREAT WAY OFF, HIS FATHER SAW HIM, AND HAD COMPASSION, AND RAN, AND FELL ON HIS NECK, AND KISSED HIM.**

***Forgiveness is never vindictive, but has compassion.***

***Forgiveness is never harsh, but easy to be entreated, easy to approach.***

***Forgiveness seeks reconciliation even before forgiveness is sought. Forgiveness is never based upon merit, performance or repentance.***

***Romans 5:6-8***

*6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

*7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*

*8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.***

***Forgiveness causes us to see and treat that person as if they had never sinned; there is no debt and no transgression in their "account".***

**1 Corinthians 13:5**

*"Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, **THINKETH** (compute, calculate, count) **NO EVIL.**"*

NAS - *"...**does not take into account a wrong ...**"*

***Forgiveness requires no pre-established form or formula of repentance. Forgiveness is simply so happy that relationship is restored.***

**Luke 18:9-14**

9 *And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:*

10 *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*

11 *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

12 *I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*

13 ***AND THE PUBLICAN, STANDING AFAR OFF, WOULD NOT LIFT UP SO MUCH AS HIS EYES UNTO HEAVEN, BUT SMOTE UPON HIS BREAST, SAYING, GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER.***

14 *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

**Luke 15:11-32**

21 *And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

22 ***BUT THE FATHER SAID TO HIS SERVANTS, BRING FORTH THE BEST ROBE, AND PUT IT ON HIM; AND PUT A RING ON HIS HAND, AND SHOES ON HIS FEET:***

***Forgiveness requires no probationary or punitive time period.***

**Luke 15:11-32**

23 *And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:*

24 ***FOR THIS MY SON WAS DEAD, AND IS ALIVE AGAIN; HE WAS LOST, AND IS FOUND.*** *And they began to be merry.*

**Matthew 18:21-22**

21 *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, **HOW OFT SHALL MY BROTHER SIN AGAINST ME, AND I FORGIVE HIM? TILL SEVEN TIMES?***

22 Jesus saith unto him, **I SAY NOT UNTO THEE, UNTIL SEVEN TIMES: BUT, UNTIL SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.**

*Forgiveness has no limits, neither in severity nor repetition of the sin.*

**Hebrews 12:11–15**

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

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.**

*Forgiveness sets you free and keeps you safe from the bitterness that brings destruction and death, not only in this life but in the life to come.*

**Matthew 7:6**

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

*Forgiveness is free. Trust is earned. Many times even when forgiveness is given, relationships can't be restored.*