

**TLC DAY OF PARDON  
SERMON: TO FORGIVE IS TO CANCEL THE DEBT  
11-27-22**

**Media: Show all numbers and scriptures**

**Good to be back. Thankful for other pastors.  
PRAYER TREES - GIVING TREE**

**OPENER:**

***Micah 7:18-19 (NIV) Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.***

**Who is our God? He is a God who pardons sin and forgives transgression. Who is our God? He is a God of forgiveness.**

**Micah, the prophet, was saying in comparison to the false gods of that day that there was no other god like Jehovah-God. False gods and the false religions required the sacrifice of man and their own self-labor to obtain the mercy and attention of their gods. But God forgave, he sacrificed himself for us. He came down to us. We did not have to go up to Him.**

**A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD REQUIRES A LIFE  
OF FORGIVENESS.  
TO HARBOR UNFORGIVENESS IS TO PRACTICE IDOLATRY.**

***“You pardon sin”.....***

**Pardon - to forgive, to excuse, to give mercy; to release from guilt or a penalty of offense; to give up all claim for amends for a wrong, to dismiss a penalty due for an admitted or established offense; to let the one who did wrong go free without punishment for their crime**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**Whether made by the President or a state governor, they can issue a full pardon, reversing a criminal conviction (along with its legal effects) as if it never happened. The decision is final and not subject to judicial review. Example of a pardon:**

**WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM US ON THIS DAY OF PARDON?**

**He wants each of us to grant a pardon to those who have wronged us. To make a conscious, deliberate decision to release our feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person, regardless of whether they deserve your forgiveness. To release them from paying you back. To set them free. To resolve the issue between you and them and come to peace. To not demand any payment or penalty or punishment from them.**

### **WHY A DAY OF PARDON?**

We are standing on the edge of the greatest revival that TLC has ever experienced. It will not be like the old days, or in our beginning, but a latter rain that is greater than the first, but God is asking something of us. He is asking us to walk in a greater love for one another. A love that we have never known. A bond of unity and a bond of forgiveness toward one another. No longer walking in judgment, or backbiting, or gossip or envy, but in true pure servitude toward one another. No longer holding offense toward one another. Thinking of others needs greater than our own.

For too long the church has not walked in the love and oneness that God wills for us. And the world is waiting to see it.

Revival will not happen when we have perfection in ministry, but peace and holiness and love in our hearts. Remember, revival doesn't start out here; it starts in us.

In preparation for revival, we must purify and cleanse our hearts of offense, resentment, pride and backbiting. We must honor each other.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **ISRAEL'S YEAR OF PARDON**

#### **(SABBATICAL YEAR/YEAR OF SHABBAT)**

*Exodus 23:10-11 (NIV) For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, <sup>11</sup> but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what is left. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.*

*Deuteronomy 15:1-2 (NIV) At the end of every seventh year you must cancel the debts of everyone who owes you money. <sup>2</sup> This is how it must be done. Everyone must cancel the loans they have made to their fellow Israelites. They must not demand payment from their neighbors or relatives, for the Lord's time of release has arrived.*

(Explain Israel's Sabbatical Year)

Once every seven years, God commanded a Sabbatical year (a year of rest) for the Land of Israel. Agricultural work came to a halt and God commanded a cancellation of all debts.

(On the Jewish calendar this Seventh Year- this year of Rest just ended this past September.)

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Like the Loan Officer at the bank calling you and telling you that you don't have to pay the rest of your house mortgage.

Every seventh year, God's people did two things:

- 1) They ceased from their labor
- 2) They forgave and cancelled all debts

**THE SEVENTH YEAR WAS A YEAR OF REST AND RELEASE - A YEAR OF REST AND PARDON.**

God ordained the year of Shmita for His people for their betterment:

>By forgiving debts owed, the Israelite people learned to grow kinder and more gracious toward each other.

>Also in letting the land lie untouched and do no planting, it reinforced their belief that despite their great efforts, any harvest or blessing or monetary gain comes from God.

>It gave them a chance to demonstrate their faith in God to take care of them by being willing to not collect any debt that they rightfully deserved.

>It also helped them to learn to distance themselves from ever trying to gain a profit in a way that was dishonest or unlawful.

**FORGIVENESS IS PRIMARILY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ONE FORGIVING.**

**FOR BY CANCELLING ANOTHER'S DEBT FOR THEIR WRONG AGAINST US WE GROW SPIRITUALLY IN THE PROCESS.**

**TWO STATEMENTS:**

**I. TO FORGIVE IS TO REST**

Just like the Israelites practiced Shabbat. God wants us to practice rest too. To hold unforgiveness is to strive and labor. But to forgive is to rest.

**WHEN WE CHOOSE NOT TO FORGIVE, THEN WE MAKE A CHOICE TO STAND IN OUR OWN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**TO NOT FORGIVE IS TO WORK TO PROVE YOURSELF RIGHT.**

**TO HOLD RESENTMENT AND VENGEANCE IS TO BOAST OF YOUR WORTH AND THAT YOU ARE BETTER THAN THE ONE WHO WRONGED YOU.**

God did not design us to harbor unforgiveness. He designed us to rest in His love. When we forgive we cease from our own works and labor and rest.

**II. TO FORGIVE IS TO HEAL**

Unforgiveness takes great effort and it takes a toll on our physical and emotional well being. Unforgiveness can cause anxiety, weariness and illness.

**JUST LIKE THE LAND WAS GIVEN A TIME TO HEAL AND REST. WE HEAL WHEN WE STOP OUR TOIL OF UNFORGIVENESS.**

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT FORGIVENESS?**

### **1.WE FORGIVE BECAUSE THE LORD FORGAVE US**

***Colossians 3:13 (NLT) Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.***

It is plain and simple - forgiveness and laying down offense is a command. This is the whole foundation of our Christianity. The whole story from cover to cover of this Bible is the story of forgiveness. This is what our with is built upon.....that Christ forgave us.

Freely you have received. Freely give.

### **2.TO HOLD UNFORGIVENESS IS TO BECOME SOMEONE'S JUDGE**

***Luke 6:37 <sup>37</sup> (NLT) "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.***

>We sit in judgment of others when we decide that we are right and they are wrong.

>We sit in judgment when we make them pay by ignoring them or kicking them out of our friend group.

>We sit in judgment when we allow bitterness to sit in our hearts toward them for what they did to us.

>We sit in judgment when we watch and wait and wish for something bad to happen to them for the wrong that they did.

>We judge others when we gossip, backbite and have conversations of the wrong they have done.

**WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.**

**IF WE SOW JUDGMENT AND CONDEMNATION TO OTHERS, GOD'S JUDGMENT AND CONDEMNATION WILL COME ON US.**

**TO BE FREE YOU MUST GIVE FREEDOM.  
TO CONDEMN OTHERS IS TO BE CONDEMNED.**

**TO BE FORGIVEN IS TO GIVE FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS.**

### **3. HOW TO RECOGNIZE UNFORGIVENESS**

***Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.***

As we can see in this scripture choosing not to forgive can cause us to be bitter, angry, harsh with our words, a gossiper and eventually lead us to do sinful things.

We could actually reverse this scripture and say, ....*Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you so you will be rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.*

#### **4. TO NOT FORGIVE IS NOT TO BE FORGIVEN**

***Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT) If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.***

When we release someone of their bondage of debt to us, we are released of our debt of bondage toward God.

#### **STORY:**

**Mother Franks at Goodwill.**

**“If we don’t forgive others. God won’t forgive us.”**

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

The discovery Penicillin heralded the dawn of the antibiotic age. Before its introduction there was no effective treatment for infections such as pneumonia, or rheumatic fever. Hospitals were full of people with blood poisoning contracted from a cut or a scratch, and doctors could do little for them but wait and hope. But it was not until 1928 that penicillin, the first true antibiotic, was discovered by Alexander Fleming, Professor of Bacteriology at St. Mary's Hospital in London.

But what if Fleming decided not to share his discovery?

God’s forgiveness is a wonderful gift that is of the greatest value that cannot be measured. This gift of forgiveness is so great that we can’t keep it to ourselves. It must be shared.

**TO WITHHOLD THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS IS TO BE  
SELFISH AND PRIDEFUL.  
IT IS TO DISHONOR THE VALUABLE GIFT OF LOVE AND  
MERCY GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.**

God never meant for us to withhold from sharing His forgiveness with others. The only way others will understand God’s love and forgiveness is to see it openly displayed in us, God’s children.

#### **5. FORGIVENESS IS A LIFESTYLE**

***Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT) Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" 22 "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!***

**If we are God's children, then forgiveness is a lifestyle, not a one time choice. We forgive others even when they continue to wrong us.**

***Romans 5:8 (NIV)But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

***Luke 6:32-36 (NIV) "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.***

**IF WE ONLY LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE US THEN WE ARE NOT WALKING IN  
GOD'S LOVE BUT A FORM OF LOVE  
THAT SUITS US.**

**CLOSING:**

**COME TO THE CROSS TODAY**

**This is an instrument of pardon. This is where your sins were pardoned. They were cancelled at the cross. In the same way that you were pardoned from your sins, and your wrongs were nailed to this cross and they were remitted, forgiven and you have been allowed to walk away and go free**

**So, in turn we nail our resentment, unforgiveness, hurt, our bitterness toward others to this cross. In doing so we make a decision to let go of holding unforgiveness in our heart. We grant pardon to those who have wronged us. We let our ill feelings go.**