

Text: Matthew 6:9-15

1. The subject that few want to learn more about, forgiveness

- A. Forgive-to send away, to let go, let alone, to let be, to not discuss, to remit, to omit, to give up a debt, to disregard, to abandon
- B. So many meanings for one word
- C. Is there anything harder to do?
- D. Is there anything more humbling?

2. What forgiveness is not

- A. Forgiveness is NOT “Lord, I put them into your hands”. That is called revenge
- B. Forgiveness is NOT telling everyone you have forgiven the person as you trash their character. That is called talebearing
- C. Forgiveness is NOT dwelling on, but not voicing your hatred for the person. That is called bitterness
- D. Forgiveness is NOT telling yourself that you are better than them so you will not respond. That is called pride
- E. Forgiveness is NOT leveraging the relationship into your favor via blackmail, intimidation, or insinuation. That is called manipulation

3. The entrance gate, the lowest dimension of forgiveness is repentance

- A. Repentance- to turn around
- B. If your repentance time in prayer never involves forgiveness, you are not repenting
- C. One can not truly forgive without starting at the altar of repentance
- D. To repent is to forgive and to forgive is to repent
- E. To be right with God, one must let go of grudges, grievances, and guile
- F. Matthew 5:21-24 reveals that our gifts to God are a waste of time if we are holding a grudge
- G. Any attempt to accomplish any endeavor for the kingdom is polluted if unforgiveness is in one’s heart
- H. Unforgiveness is the unpardonable sin. How can one make into heaven with unforgiveness in the heart?

4. The 2nd dimension is vocalizing your forgiveness in prayer

- A. Example of Jesus forgiving on the cross
- B. Example of Stephen forgiving vocally

- C. You cannot settle for the hope of forgiveness silently abiding within, it must be voiced to be felt
- D. You might have to speak it in several prayer sessions to begin to feel it
- E. Forgiveness truly has a feeling attached to it. A release of internal pressure happens, like a lid opening from a pressure cooker
- F. To forgive is to feel forgiven

5. The 3rd dimension is to vocalize a blessing on them in prayer

- A. Matthew 5:43-44
- B. You will not mean this when you first begin speaking it
- C. This must be repeated until it is coming from your heart not your head
- D. The blessing tongue is truly at its most honest when it is blessing enemies
- E. Anyone can speak blessings to their friends and family, can you prophesy a blessing on someone who betrayed you?
- F. Can we genuinely desire for our haters to be blessed?

6. The 4th dimension involves actually blessing them

- A. You cannot say forgive without saying the word give
- B. What can you give in your forgiveness?
- C. Several times God has released me from the wounds from others by blessing them financially. Explain
- D. You might not have to bless them financially but you might be called on to bless them verbally. Maybe even publicly
- E. Giving rebukes the devourer. The devourer of your peace is rebuked when you give
- F. But what if they don't deserve it? What if I told you every time God blesses you financially, He was forgiving you of something?

7. The highest level, the 5th dimension of forgiveness is apologizing

- A. Apologizing- to express regret, to say sorry
- B. To apologize when you are the one who deserved the apology is the most humbling act of forgiveness
- C. This apology is rarely met with a counter apology therefore the culprit goes free but so does your heart
- D. Apologizing rids you of the internal shrapnel from the explosion
- E. Apologizing keeps you humble before God and if you humble yourself before God, He will exalt you in due time
- F. The hardest person to apologize to is the one you hate the most
- G. That person might even be dead but you need to take the hatred to the cross and let it bleed out

8. Closing: Who do you need to forgive?

- A. Do you need to forgive yourself by chance?