

## SECURITY IN THE STORM #5

### **Withstanding the Storms of Life**

#### **(Part 2)**

#### **I. Introduction**

We are in the midst of one of the greatest storms the world has ever seen.  
Our greatest desire is to see God's people "Withstand the Storm"!

#### **Withstand**

**To remain undamaged or unaffected by; to stand or hold out against; to resist successfully.**

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke very specifically about "Withstanding the Storms of Life" at the end of His famous "Sermon on the Mount", recorded in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of the Gospel of Matthew.

He spoke of 2 men who each built house hit by a storm.  
One man's house withstood the storm; the other man's house came crashing down.

#### **Matthew 7:24-25**

**"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.**

#### **Matthew 7:26-27**

**"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."**

#### **Theme**

**The only way to withstand the storms of life by is by hearing and doing what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount!**

#### **Review**

We are looking at 7 specific "sayings" of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount.  
Last week we looked at the first 3:

## **7 SAYINGS WE MUST HEAR AND DO TO WITHSTAND THE STORM**

1. Put away anger (It is the root of murder)
2. Put away immorality and lust (It is the root of adultery)
3. Put away showy religion (To be seen of men)

Tonight we will look at #4; Jesus command to put away unforgiveness.

In my personal experience, of all the 7 sins in this series, the one that brings down more lives than any other is unforgiveness.

### **UNFORGIVENESS**

- It is a subtle sin; you don't know you have it (Most people are in denial)
    - It will grow inside you
    - It will spread around you
  - It will hijack your life; your house can be falling all around you and you never figure out why
  - Unforgiveness opens the door to demonic forces that will torment you
    - *Worst of all, unforgiveness is a sin that God will not forgive!*
- So my message today is entitled...

## **II. "Unforgiveness is Unforgivable"**

Most Christians take the forgiveness of God for granted; but tonight I want to teach on unforgiveness; a sin so serious it can cut us off from the grace of God.

### **Mark Dance, Lifeway, Facts and Trends 3/20/17**

**"Jesus taught that unforgiveness is unforgivable. That sounds harsh because it is harsh. Unforgiveness is the most consistent trap for pastors and church leaders that I have seen."**

#### **A. Three Places Jesus Taught That Unforgiveness is Unforgivable**

1. The first place Jesus says unforgiveness is unforgivable is at the end of the Lord's Prayer. We all know the Lord's Prayer...

### **Matthew 6:9-11**

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.**

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.  
and forgive us our debts, (trespasses) as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us...**

- Notice the language here: “Forgive us...as we forgive”: It means that I cannot ask for forgiveness of my trespasses against God until I have forgiven others of their trespasses against me!
- “Forgive us...as we forgive” also means ‘in the same way’ or ‘in the same degree’!

a. In other words...

**The degree of forgiveness that we give to others will determine the degree of forgiveness that God will give to us.**

b. Then, immediately after the end of the Lord’s Prayer; Jesus states it as a warning:

**Matthew 6:14-15**

**"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

c. In other words, unforgiveness is unforgivable!

2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jesus says unforgiveness is unforgivable is when He was teaching on prayer in the Gospel of Mark:

**Mark 11:25-26**

**25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have *anything* against *anyone*, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.  
26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."**

a. Notice: If you have “anything” against “anyone” Jesus says “forgive him...SO THAT YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN MAY ALSO FORGIVE YOU.”

b. Notice, this is not for lost people; it is for Christians! When a sinner comes to God for forgiveness, God does not require them to forgive others before He forgives them. *But once He has forgiven our sins He requires us to forgive!*

**Derek Prince**

**“If we have totally forgiven others, we can expect total forgiveness from God. But if we withhold forgiveness from others, even in a measure, we cannot legitimately expect total forgiveness from God.”**

c. Testimony: In my personal pastoral experience, unforgiveness is the most common of the 7 sins Christians commit; it is a serious sin that cuts us off from what we need most: God’s forgiveness!

**John Osteen**

**“Unforgiveness burns the bridge over which we ourselves must pass.”**

d. Derek Prince taught us that unforgiveness is like holding onto to IOU’s, monetary debts people owe us that they have not paid us for.

**Derek Prince**

**“You have a lot of IOU’s in your hand from someone who’s done you wrong; they are legitimate; they are legal; you can hold onto them if you want to. But God says, ‘Here in heaven I am holding a lot of IOU’s from you in My hand; let’s make a deal if you will tear up those IOU’s you have in your hand, on earth, all of them, I will tear up the IOU’s I have from you in heaven; but if you don’t tear yours up, I’ll hold on to Mine.’ You have to decide whether you will take the deal or not.”**

3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jesus tells us that unforgiveness is unforgivable is in Matthew 18 where He is teaching on offences.

- Offences must come
- But you must deal with them immediately!

**Matthew 18:21-22**

**21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.**

a. Then Jesus launches into the lengthy parable of a man who owed his master a million dollars:

**Matthew 18:26-27**

**The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.**

**Matthew 18:28-29**

**"But that same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'**

**Matthew 18:32-34**

**Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.**

Then Jesus drops the bombshell!

**Matthew 18:35**

**"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."**

- b. Unforgiveness is such a serious sin that our Heavenly Father Himself will turn us over to the torturers if we hold on to it.
- c. Unforgiveness is unforgivable! So how do we deal with it?

**B. Some Keys to Dealing With Unforgiveness**

- 1. The first key to deliverance from unforgiveness is to admit that you have it.

**John Bevere, "The Bait of Satan"**

**"The first step toward healing and freedom is to recognize that you are hurt. Often pride does not want us to admit that we are hurt and offended."**

- a. The most maddening thing about ministering to Christians about unforgiveness is so many deny that they have a problem.
- b. There can be many causes:

- It may demonic deception-the devil tells you that you don't have it

- But more often it's simply spiritual pride-you don't admit that someone offended you or hurt you
- It can be spiritual laziness; you'd rather let the unforgiveness linger because you just don't want to go through the stress of confronting the other person
  - c. In any case the first step is to admit you have it.

2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> key is to accept the responsibility to deal with it. Forgiveness is a decision! You need to remember this when you get angry with someone!

### **Corrie Ten Boom**

**“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.”**

a. We taught a message on this in our series, “The Decision is Yours”.

### **Derek Prince**

**“Forgiveness is a decision not an emotion. The initiative is with us not with others. And the way we relate to others determines the way God relates to us.”**

a. If you're really hurt you will not 'feel' like forgiving  
 b. If you're really hurt you will not 'feel' like taking the initiative: you many withhold your forgiveness until they ask for it or show some repentance. But as one said...

**“You need to forgive others as quickly as you expect God to forgive you.”**

d. And always remember that “the way you relate to those who hurt you will determine the way that God relates to you”!

### **Pastor Mark Hankins**

**“It is amazing how much forgiveness we expect to receive from God and how little we are willing to give out to others.”**

3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> key is to really meditate on the high price you pay to hold on to your unforgiveness (hurts, or anger).

- a. The first price is the worst price: God will withhold forgiving you
  - b. But unforgiveness puts you in spiritual lockdown.
- I mentioned the late Corrie Ten Boom, a woman who had to deal with unforgiveness toward the Nazi soldiers who caused the death of her beloved

sister when they were in a Jewish concentration camp in WWII. She came to realize that her unforgiveness had locked her in a prison more real than the concentration camp. She later wrote...

**Corrie Ten Boom**

**“Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred.”**

c. Nelson Mandela, the great South African civil rights leader, spent 27 years in prison at the hands of his political enemies. He said this upon his release:

**Nelson Mandela**

**“As I walked out the door toward my freedom, I knew that if I did not leave all the anger, hatred and bitterness behind, that I would still be in prison.”**

- He went on to become the President of South Africa and led his country out of the horrible segregationist policies of apartheid.
- He later said...

**Nelson Mandela**

**“Resentment is like drinking poison hoping it will kill your enemies.”**

**Nelson Mandela**

**“When a deep injury is done to us, we never heal until we forgive.”**

d. The only way to set yourself free is to set your offender free:

**Lewis B. Smedes**

**“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and then discover that the prisoner was you.”**

### **C. Objections to Forgiveness**

**C.S. Lewis**

**“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea; until they have something to forgive.”**

1. Some will say: “This is easy for you to say; but you don’t know how bad they hurt me.”

- a. Worse than Corrie Ten Boom?
- b. Worse than Nelson Mandela?
- c. Worse than Jesus! The One who, unlike us, had no sin and who while suffering the greatest offence in human history said...

**Luke 23:34**

**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.**

- d. Remember that you too, are a son of God; people that hurt or offend you do not realize they are bringing the judgment of God upon themselves!

**Alexander Pope**

**“To err is human; to forgive is divine.”**

- e. You are never more like God than when you learn to forgive!

### **III. Close**

#### **A. Learning to Hate the Sin of Anger and Unforgiveness**

- 1. Testimony: I never really knew how to walk in forgiveness until I learned how to truly HATE unrighteous anger and unforgiveness!

**Glenda Green**

**“You cannot afford to withhold forgiveness. Nothing will destroy your life more surely, for there is a great hidden grief in the denial of forgiveness. Your heart will become so heavy from what you have not forgiven that you will bear the offenses of another as if they were your own.”**

- 2. Jesus said there are some things we have to cut off to save our soul.

**The Aaron Ralston Story**

- 3. In 2003, 27 year old Aaron Ralston was hiking Bluejohn Canyon in Utah when a boulder became dislodged and crushed his right forearm, pinning it to a rock wall. For 5 ½ days he struggled to get free until he was forced to do the unthinkable. Using a blunt knife from his utility belt he amputated his right forearm and was rescued a few hours later. (“127 Hours” is a movie made based on these events.)

**Aaron Ralston cut off his own right arm to save his life.**



**Will you be willing to do the same with your unforgiveness?**

4. When we come to the same attitude about unforgiveness, we will cut it off!

**Unforgiveness is Unforgiveable**

**Your house won't withstand the storm if you hold on to unforgiveness!**

5. The quality of our Christian life depends on loving and forgiving others!

**Mother Teresa**

**“If we really want to love, we have to learn how to forgive.”**

I will close by turning these verses into a Prayer

**Colossians 3:12-15**

**12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, (we will) put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; (we will) bear with one another, and forgive one another, (if we have) a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave us, so we must forgive others. 14 But above all these things (we will) put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in (our) hearts, to which (we) were called in one body; and (we will) be thankful.**

**Amen!**