



VOLUME 19.06

THE TOUGHEST PERSON TO FORGIVE

source

19.06

THE TOUGHEST PERSON TO FORGIVE

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THE TOUGHEST PERSON TO FORGIVE

- A. INTRODUCTION: Have you ever heard of the fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes? His real name was Sir Arthur Doyle. He was also known to be a real prankster. He obviously lived many years ago when the telegraph was still a widely used means of communication.

So in one of his pranks, he sent out identical telegrams to twelve of his friends. The telegrams were all ANONYMOUS and simply read, "All has been discovered. Flee the country at once."

What's crazy is that within 24 hours of receiving the telegraph, ALL TWELVE OF THE GUYS HAD FLED THE COUNTRY!

1. What's that remind us?
 - a. Just that we all have "skeletons" in the closet...some little, some big. We all have junk in our past that brings us shame and embarrassment. And even after we ask Christ's forgiveness, the Devil loves to drive us crazy with GUILT over those things. That's what we're talking about tonight. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THE GUILT?
 - b. Some regrets, mess ups, and sins are pretty easy to get past after we ask the Lord for His forgiveness. Other situations...not so easy. Lots of time, the toughest person to REALLY FORGIVE will be YOURSELF. And because the Enemy is "*the ACCUSER of the brethren*," he will amp up the guilt and condemnation in attempts to deeply discourage you. His aim? To get you to eventually throw in the towel when it comes to really seriously pursuing Jesus.

I wish there was an EASY ANSWER...but I'm afraid it's not always that simple. What if we could pass out a MIRACLE PRODUCT TONIGHT to help you forgive yourself and move forward into your future? Wow! That would make a great infomercial! What if there were a product we could sell tonight called "GUILT BE GONE?!?!"

FUN OPENING SKIT: "GUILT BE GONE!"

(To see a video of our skit, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

- B. Let me give you the ABC's of forgiving yourself and dealing with the voices of guilt in your own head that the Enemy will always try to use to paralyze you. I want to make it easy to remember. That's why I'll build it around the simple letters of "A...B...C"!

1. A = ABOLISH the barriers to your forgiveness.
 - a. Stop rehashing your past sins over and over in your mind after you've asked the Lord for His forgiveness.
 - It's like driving a car with an oversized REARVIEW mirror. Always looking back means that a CRASH IS COMING!
 - Revelation 12:10 (describing the Enemy) "...for he is *THE ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN.*"

MONOLOGUE #1 (girl)

(To see a video of our monologue, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

- b. Face, without blame shifting and excuses, YOUR OWN SIN.
 - Acts 13:38-39 (LIV), "*In this man, Jesus, there is forgiveness for your sins! Everyone who trusts in Him is freed from all guilt and declared to be righteous.*"
- c. Determine the FUSE SHORTENERS for one sin area at a time...and make a clear plan to REMOVE them.
 - Remember...it's stupid to keep doing the same patterns over and over again and expect something to CHANGE.
 - Remove your "WPs."
 - o Wrong PLACES
 - o Wrong PATTERNS
 - o Wrong PEOPLE
 - o Wrong PRIORITIES.

WP SING-ALONG: Fun country music at its finest!

(To see a video of our our team performing this, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Your WP is showing now...
Your WP is showing now...
Your WP is showing now...
It will send your soul to HELL!
Praise the Lord...
I'm born again!

d. REMOVE & REPLACE!

- REMOVE the thoughts of GUILT from your mind after you've honestly asked the Lord for His forgiveness and dealt with your FUSE SHORTENERS.
- Then REPLACE the thoughts of guilt with pre-chosen Scriptures that fight back.

2. B = BELIEVE, through rolling the Scripture over and over in your mind, that Christ's forgiveness is for real...no matter how much you "don't DESERVE it."

a. Your Heavenly Father puts all your sins, after repentance...

- OUT OF HIS SIGHT
 - o Isaiah 38:17, *"You have put all my sins BEHIND YOUR BACK."*
- OUT OF HIS REACH
 - o Psalm 103:12, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us."*
 - o You can go from the north pole to the south pole...but...from Christ's vantage point, your sins aren't there anymore.
- OUT OF HIS MEMORY
 - o Jeremiah 31:34, *"I...will remember your sins no more."*

MONOLOGUE #2 (guy)

(To see a video of our monologue, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

3. C = CELEBRATE that no matter how often you mess up, your sin will never outlast the Lord's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

- a. A FEW SCRIPTURES I USE (paraphrased and personalized) to CELEBRATE and CONFIRM the truth of God's forgiveness in my life (even when I don't DESERVE IT):
- Romans 8:1, *"There is absolutely no condemnation or guilt for me because I have chosen to live my life centered in Christ's love and forgiveness."*
 - Romans 5:1, *"I have asked for Christ's forgiveness. Because of this, I am justified by faith in Him. That's why I have peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ."*

- Isaiah 43:25, *"God Himself says, 'It is I, even I, who wipes out your sins for my very own sake. I will not even REMEMBER them against you.'"*
- Psalm 32:1-2, *"I have happiness because my guilt has been forgiven. I have joy because my sin is covered over! What a relief it is to me because I have confessed my sin to the Lord and Christ has cleared my record."*

CLOSING STORY:

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. His grandparents gave the boy a slingshot and told him they didn't want him to practice using the slingshot up near the farmhouse. So instead, they put up a target for him in the wooded area and told him to go there to practice.

He practiced in the woods with the slingshot, but he got super discouraged because no matter how many times he tried, he could never hit the target. Finally, at lunch time, he was getting hungry so he headed back to the farmhouse. As he was walking back, he saw his grandma's pet cat. He had the slingshot in his hand and so out of impulse, he aimed the slingshot and let it fly. Sadly, he HIT the pet cat squarely in its head and killed it immediately. The little kid was shocked and paralyzed with fear.

In a panic, he looked around and didn't see anyone. So he quickly picked up the dead body of the cat and carried it behind the woodpile in the backyard of the farm. He moved some wood pieces and used his hands to dig a hole. Then he buried the cat inside the shallow hole and put the wood back on top. Just as he turned around to stand up and clean off, he looked up and saw his older sister, Gwen, just staring at him. She didn't say a word, but her eyes pierced him as if to say, "I've seen everything that just happened." So, he waited for a while and went into the house for lunch.

After lunch that day, Grandma said, "Gwen, I think it's your turn do the dishes." But Gwen said, "Oh no, Grandma, Ben told me he wanted to hang out with you today and help with the dishes, didn't you Ben?" And then under her breath she whispered so no one else could hear, "Remember the cat."

So Ben did the dishes.

Later, Ben's granddad asked if the kids wanted to go fishing. Grandma spoke up and said, "I'm sorry, but I need Gwen to help me clean the house today." But Gwen just smiled and said the same line she had used all week, "No big deal, Grandma, because just this morning Ben told me HE wanted to help you by cleaning the house. Isn't that right, Ben?" Once again she whispered to him, "Remember the cat." So Gwen went fishing and Ben stayed at home again to work.

Finally, the little kid couldn't take it any longer. He wasn't even having a summer break because his sister was hanging the guilt over him and he was doing all her chores. Ben went to his grandma and started to cry. He told her the whole story

about how he had killed her cat. After he finished, his grandma bent over, gave him a big hug, and said softly, “Ben, I knew that. I was watching the whole thing from the kitchen window. I saw it all. I was just wondering how long you’d let Gwen make you her slave.”

- C. CLOSING: Don’t you suppose that is just how our Heavenly Father feels about us? We ask the Lord for forgiveness of something in our life...and yet, we let the Enemy keep haunting us with guilt. That guilt eventually makes us its prisoner. Our Heavenly Father is probably watching from Heaven...just wondering how long we’ll keep allowing GUILT TO MAKE US ITS SLAVE.
1. Tonight, as you come to the Cross, create a memory with Jesus. We’re going to write on these cards one or two things we’ve asked the Lord to forgive...that the Enemy continues to HAUNT us with guilt over. Don’t put your names on the cards.
 2. Then during closing prayer tonight, I’ll ask you at some point to come forward and NAIL THAT SIN one final time symbolically to the cross we’ve positioned up front. The hammers and nails will be at the base of the cross.
 3. Don’t be in a hurry. Just write and come when you desire. MAKE TONIGHT COUNT.

THE TOUGHEST PERSON TO FORGIVE

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- B. Let me give you the ABC's of forgiving yourself and dealing with the voices of guilt in your own head that the Enemy will always try to use to paralyze you. I want to make it easy to remember. That's why I'll build it around the simple letters of "A...B...C"!

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 - It's like driving a car with an oversized REARVIEW mirror. Always looking back means that a _____ IS _____!
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- c. Determine the _____ for one sin area at a time...and make a clear plan to _____ them.
- Remember...it's stupid to keep doing the same patterns over and over again and expect something to _____.
 - Remove your "WPs."
 - o Wrong _____
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 - o Wrong _____.
- d. _____ & _____!
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 - Then REPLACE the thoughts of guilt with pre-chosen Scriptures that fight back.
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SHERLOCK HOLMES: FLEE THE COUNTRY

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GUILT BE GONE

(To see a video of our skit, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Yo everybody. How are you? How are you? How are you?

Yes, I know that you're doing great because I'm in the house tonight.

I am so excited to be with you. I know you all know who I am.

I know you're excited to get to know me. Again, you know, this is mLane2Fresh.

Again, that's mLane2Fresh. That's @mLane2Fresh_bowbow. @mLane2Fresh_bowbow.

I know you guys saw me and you see me bring you amazing products.

You remember when I brought you Skittles? "Taste the rainbow." Do you remember that?

I know you do.

And I know you love that new thing I brought...that new can opener. I knew you were struggling so I brought you that Solar Can Opener 1,000.

Well, I'm here to give you something new tonight.

I got the drippiest, I got the dopest, I got the realest, I got the most outrageous thing to hit the block since sliced bread. Are you ready for it? Are you ready for it? I've got it for you, baby.

Do you ever do something and maybe you feel a little guilty afterwards. Like maybe your Grandmamma said, "Don't do something." Or maybe like a pastor said, "Hey, don't do this...don't do that." You do it and you've got that after effect. You're thinking, "I don't want it. Why am I feeling this way?" You get like a pounding in your head? And you say, "I don't want to feel this way anymore?"

Well, mLane2Fresh got you, baby. I'm about to hit you with something brand new off the block.

This is that "GUILT BE GONE." This is that "GUILT BE GONE." Brand new stuff. Let me tell you something. With this product right here...I'm telling you, you can cheat on your test. You can cheat on your boyfriend or girlfriend sitting right next to you. Then all you've got to do...let me demonstrate, because I know a couple of you might try it out tonight. I know you're looking across the aisle and saying, "I like her." "I like him." "I'm sorry, Babe."

And you're going to do it, but you don't know how it's going to be afterwards. Let me demonstrate to you so you can come up to mLane2Fresh and I can give you some of this GUILT BE GONE.

If you're ever feeling guilty afterwards, you know...I'm saying, you want to do it, but you feel a pounding afterwards, all you've got to do with my new product, GUILT BE GONE...you've got to turn it on, and put it in the air...and watch this...it's great. (*Sprays mist and takes a deep breath with a smile.*) Two sprays make it all go away. You know what I'm saying?

You can cheat all you want. You can sin to your heart's desire. I'll tell you, all you people that are here...you know that you want to make compromises, you want to do all this...I'm telling you, you can do whatever your heart wants you to do...just get some GUILT BE GONE.

Spray this thing, breath it in, and you're good.

I came up with a mantra for this. So, I'm going to say it, then you repeat it.

"Guilt here to stay? Just spray it away."

So, I'm used to being on tv. I'm not used to the live audience. I'm glad that Jeanne said that I could come here and be in front of a live audience. In front of my man, Armando. He's also selling product. He was our first customer. He's already called me three times.

I'm going to say, I need you guys to repeat after me. When I say, "Guilt here to stay." I need you to repeat it and then we're all going to say it, "Spray it away."

"Guilt here to stay?" "Spray it away."

One more time. "Guilt here to stay?" "Just spray it away."

Do whatever you want to do, you don't have to feel guilty about it. All you've got to do is get that GUILT BE GONE. And on top of that, I put 30 years of studying into my brand new book and I want to release it to you guys tonight. You will be the first ones. *How to Sin Often and Smack Guilt in the Face.*

Cameraman, get a close up of this please. Thank you, brother.

How to Sin Often and Smack Guilt in the Face. And yes, I know what you're thinking, I did write that on the title. And you guys are paying me to look at it. I put 30 years of knowledge into this. I've got five major keys. Shout out to DJ Callen. I've got five major keys on how to sin and not feel guilty. I've got these secret ingredients to GUILT BE GONE in here. Are you kidding me?

And if that's not enough. I have a couple of different alluring fragrances for you.

The first one is our favorite. We've got the Sinner Sensation. That's our top seller right now.

But my personal favorite is Guiltless Grape. Thanos snapped his fingers, he had that Guiltless Grape and he's feeling great now. Shout out for *Avengers End Game*. He's feeling great. Let's go.

I want to give you guys a special offer. I want to get this in your hands because I know a lot of us, we want to sin, but that pounding, may make us keep from doing it. I want you to have this GUILT BE GONE and that way you can sin and you don't have to worry about it. You don't have to worry about that aftertaste, you don't have to worry about the condemnation or the sin, all you need is some GUILT BE GONE.

This is what I'm going to do for you. I need you to pull out your phones right now. Text 1-800-GUILT-NO-WAY to get your free...maybe...

1-800-GUILT-NO-WAY to sign up to get this GUILT BE GONE and the first 1,000 people to sign up are going to get my book, *How to Sin Often and Smack Guilt in the Face*.

As I leave you I'm so excited to have you try this amazing product, GUILT BE GONE.

Please say it with me, "Guilt here to stay?" "Spray it away."

Thank you!

As you will hear on the audio portion of the Source, we used a couple of monologues to portray different areas of guilt that people deal with. I called a couple of key people that carried a little influence in the group, and I asked them if they could consider helping us out. I rewrote the monologues so that it didn't make it awkward for them. I told them that they didn't have to memorize it word for word, but let them know that there were key phrases that I wanted them to say. Feel free to use ours below or write your own. But this type of Creative Communication is an effective one. It portrays what many of your students are thinking, but don't ever want to say.

(To see a video of our monologues, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Monologue #1: (girl)

The pounding...the pounding...the pounding!

Can You stop the pounding for one second?

Or can You at least lead me to someone that will stop the pounding for me?

I'm sick of it!

I feel like a fake.

I feel like a first class spiritual phony or something...I don't know. You know what I mean.

You know what, Jesus? Let me be real with You for one second.

I've been struggling with the same few things in my life for a good minute now...and I'm tired of it.

And I come here and I put on my Wednesday night smile, but nobody puts in the time or the effort to get to my core or to see what's happening behind the scenes.

Can You stop the pounding for a second so I can talk to You?

You know what? I'm still being real, right? I've been struggling with these things for so long that I've been considering just quitting on You. Just giving up. Because I'm tired of struggling.

God? God...please just hear me out. Please!

Do You know what? I realize that You don't use people like me. Not really. Not often. You use people like that...like this...but not me.

You use people that deserve to be used.

You know what? I don't care though...I don't care. I just need this pounding to stop because I can't take it any longer. It's getting louder, and louder, and louder!

I can't take the guilt any longer!

Monologue #2: *(guy)*

The voices. The pounding voices...telling me how much of a loser I am.

I'm such a phony. I remember I would tell myself that when I got older and more mature...that the temptation would just go away. But God, that didn't happen! And now, now I'm a pastor...a worship pastor and it's painful how titles don't take away the fear... they don't take away the guilt...or the pain... or the memories...that replay over and over and over again in my mind.

When I first started the role I told myself I'd never do it again. But that's not what happened!

I'm still disgustingly human. I do all the things I hate the most. And as soon as I do, here come those voices. Those pounding voices laughing at me most Wednesday nights when I'm on stage in front of the Capitol about to lead worship.

I'm not a phony God! You know I'm not a phony!

So why...why can't I kick this thing? Why? I'm a pastor!

God, let me remind You...I'm a pastor! I'm a pastor. I know better.

God, maybe You got that memo, You know I'm a pastor...but the voices in my head, they tell me something different. They tell me, "You might as well give up, because it'll always and forever be the same."

THE TOUGHEST PERSON TO FORGIVE

1. Hammer the things of guilt and shame onto a cross. You will need a card (*see below*), nails, hammers, and a large wooden cross or two depending on the size of your group.

No names on these cards, please.

But what's the memory/sin/mess up that the Enemy keeps bringing back to your memory...even AFTER you've asked for forgiveness? In other words, what's the SIN or WEAKNESS or SPECIFIC SITUATION that the Enemy often brings to your mind and HAUNTS YOU WITH GUILT OVER?

*Just write it on this UNSIGNED card and fold this card once. (If you need more room, use the back of this card.) **Then after prayer, take this card symbolically and "nail it to the cross."***

*Like our closing story tonight said, **"Our Heavenly Father is probably watching from Heaven... just wondering how long we'll keep allowing GUILT TO MAKE US ITS SLAVE?"***

2. Rock or Cross with the word, "Forgiven."
3. Mirror with a tag that says, "Always looking back means that a CRASH is COMING!"
4. A fake firecracker with a tag that says, "REMOVE the thoughts of GUILT from your mind after yo've honestly asked the Lord for HIs forgiveness and dealt with your FUSE SHORTENERS."
5. A card with the paraphrased and personalized Scriptures on it to CELEBRATE and CONFIRM the truth of God's forgiveness in your life.
6. A cowboy hat with a tag that says, "Remove your WPs: Wrong Places, Wrong Patterns, Wrong People, Wrong Priorities."

THE TOUGHEST PERSON TO FORGIVE

1. FUN QUESTION: If you could buy “GUILT BE GONE,” what would you use it on?

[LEADERS: Keep this light and fun. You may want to start with a suggestion to set the tenor.]

2. In the message, we talked about WPs. (*Wrong People, Wrong Patterns, Wrong Places, and Wrong Priorities.*) Which of the WPs do you think you struggle with the most?
3. We all have some sort of skeletons in our closet. Whether it be something major or something minor. Do you think there is anything that disqualifies us from being forgiven?
[LEADERS: Remind your group that we are a family, what is shared in this circle does not leave.]
4. In the message you heard about the “ABC’S of forgiving yourself,” (*Abolish, Believe, Celebrate*). In a way these are all stages of forgiving yourself. Which stage do you think is the most challenging?
5. In the point Abolish, we talked about fuse shorteners, what are some of yours and what pre-chosen Scriptures will you use to fight back?
6. We talked tonight about how to forgive ourselves, but what is something that we could do to forgive the people who have hurt us?
7. My prayer as we leave this discussion group is that we all walk away with less guilt and strive to be more like God and more commitment to love Him. End in prayer.

CHARACTER OF GOD

by Jeanne Mayo

The Bible promises in Isaiah, *"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord."* When God places inside you the desire to know Him, you quickly discover His characteristics and attributes are endless. He is Jehovah, our provider. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. In sorrow and suffering, He's our comfort, and in times of confusion, He's our direction. The amazing aspect of being a youth pastor or youth leader that refuses to get caught up in God's acts and chooses to be a man or woman who studies His ways, becomes most crucial during the difficult seasons. Along this road we call life, inevitably we encounter unfortunate circumstances that our mortal minds cannot comprehend. The hurt overwhelms us, and when fear and doubt begin to creep in, your spirit rises up embedded with a sense of the faithfulness of God, allowing you to stand firm and grasp the faith and strength to continue on with the Lord.

I honestly believe if we'd ask ourselves what is the greatest need in our own life, our own church, our own ministry...it would be the need to truly know God. One of the most pragmatic things I've ever done is very simple. A long time ago, I started keeping a Character of God notebook. Sounds really profound, doesn't it? I began it in my devotional times, as I got alone with the Lord. At first the majority of my focus in studying the Word went towards this one task, but as time progressed I studied it in shorter segments. I might spend a month on one attribute or role of the Father, or I might spend one week or even a day. Use wisdom and be led by the Holy Spirit as you create your own personal notebook.

Begin by taking one attribute of God and writing it down, then studying all the verses that reference that attribute or any story, which reflects the specific characteristic. Start with the one area you lack most in, the area you're weakest, and go from there. In my own life, I didn't grow up in a household with a godly father, and I desperately needed to fully understand the Fatherhood of God. I took a basic Concordance and began writing down every Scripture that mentioned the word, "father," and I mentally went through biblical stories to find ones that discussed the issue of having a father. In understanding the subject of fatherhood, I went back to the story of the prodigal son and studied the father's words and actions. Through the story I discovered insights into the father heart of God. As I delved into this intriguing study, I learned how God's heart loves us, forgives us, pursues us, even when we reject Him.

As I developed my Character of God notebook, I also looked for men and women in the body of Christ who I believed exemplified a specific character I respected. Secretly, I would write little notes saying, "I know God better because I've seen His acts of mercy through your kindnesses or through your life." This quickly became an amazing tool of encouragement. From mercy to joy, from kindness to self-control, I took those tools and allowed it to help me see the Father in a new way, but it also allowed me to be Jesus in the lives of those around me. You may decide to create a tangible Character of God notebook in your own personal devotional time or begin looking through the Bible to find new insights to who God is and all He longs to do in our lives. Regardless, my prayer is that through the paved roads and the rocky climbs, you begin to trust not what you see...God's acts, but that you become so grounded in trusting His character that you begin to honestly know His ways.



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JEANNE MAYO MINISTRIES

P.O Box 450309
Atlanta, GA 31145
678-631-6012

WWW.JeanneMayo.com