

## Opening scripture

### **Matthew 16:18 (ESV)**

**15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

From the conception of the gospel, there are multifaceted layers of prophecy, teachings, miracles, covenants, resurrections, and so many other plumb-line foundations that we can all stand upon today. Tonight, there is one grain of ingredients we need for a trustworthy foundation. Tonight, I want to focus on one of the most pride-denying reflexes that must continue in our lives if we are going to maintain a foundation with the lord. Tonight, I want to speak to you on the subject of:

## **A Foundation of Forgiveness**

### **Luke 6:37 (ESV)**

**37** "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

- When we place ourselves in the seat of the judge, unrighteousness will always prevail, because God is the only righteous judge. We are literally disrespecting a seat of authority by choosing to sit in a place that was reserved for God himself.

- Why do we live in such an offendable society? Could it be a direct reflection of us also living in the most judgmental society? Offense and judgment are intertwined.

### **Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

### **Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Examples: Joseph forgave his brothers.

Stephen, though being unjustly stoned to death, extended the gesture of forgiveness to those that murdered him.

Jesus, while dying on the cross, forgave all those who crucified him. But notice, Jesus didn't say, "I forgive them", he said, "Father, forgive them".

Illustration: We all have forgiveness buckets in our lives.

Bucket #1: imagine a bucket filled with the hurts, offenses, pain, judgements, slander, and other things that we have been responsible for / guilty of. How long are we willing to keep this bucket with items in it?

Bucket #2: imagine a bucket filled with all of the hurts, offenses, pain, judgements, slander, jealousy, criticism, back-stabbing, and other things that we have forgiven.

**When we understand the magnitude of what we've been forgiven of, and what we have chosen to forgive, our bucket becomes filled with gratitude and void of judgement.**

3 things that happen when we choose to forgive:

1. Hindrances are removed.

a) Judgement

b) Bitterness

c) Pride

2. Relationship is restored.

3. God's character is reflected.