

FORGIVENESS
Source of Forgiveness
John 19:30

April 4, 2021 am

HDBC

PLAY VIDEO, “Forgiveness is Everything” before Johnny comes to stage.

Forgiveness is everything! That is a bold statement, but in many ways is so true. Forgiveness is needed in every relationship known to people. **Parent/Child. Husband/Wife. Employer/Employee. Teacher/Student. Boy Friend/Girl Friend.**

Without it relationships are doomed to anger, frustration and bitterness. It is to relationships what **oil is to an engine. It keeps temperatures from rising and allows for the various parts to keep on working together.**

We live in a broken world that is inhabited by broken, sinful people. And those broken, sinful people occasionally hurt each other. Some time it is **purposeful** and some time it is not. Sometimes the **pain cuts really deep** and at other times it merely scratches the surface. Each time there is potential for a growing infection that can ultimately kill the relationship. But each time there is also the chance to practice forgiveness.

So what is forgiveness? I love Charles Stanley’s definition.

The act of setting someone free from an obligation (or debt) to you because of some wrong done against you. Simple but powerful. So, forgiveness involves three things: a wrong done, a debt owed, the cancellation of the debt.

The most important forgiveness is God’s forgiveness of us. But forgiveness does not stop there. It is also needed in our relationships with each other.

God’s forgiveness of us. It means we are completely released from the penalty of sin that we rightfully owe because of our own sinfulness. This is only made possible because Jesus paid our sin debt in full on the cross.

Our forgiveness of others. To release another person from the debt they owe you because of some wrong done to you. This is possible because Jesus has forgiven our own sin and enables us to forgive others in His strength.

This morning we are embarking on a study of forgiveness. Over the next few weeks we will examine some key passages and consider the key elements of forgiveness.

Today we start by going to the **Source of Forgiveness**. It is found in the historical events that we are celebrating this weekend; the death and resurrection of Jesus. The source of forgiveness is found there, in those connected events. In his death, Jesus paid in full, the debt we owed because of our sin against God. In the resurrection, God confirmed that the debt had indeed been paid.

I want us to consider one statement found in one verse. Actually, only one word when Jesus uttered it from the cross. It is found in **John 19:30**. ***It is Finished!***

This was not a statement of defeat but a cry of victory. This may have been the most important word spoken on Good Friday. May have been the most important word spoken during His entire lifetime. ***Tetelestai!***

In that cry of victory we find the source of forgiveness. Because He finished, we can be forgiven and because He finished we have the power to forgive others. Let's dig in a bit. **What did He mean** when He made that declaration?

1. The End of His Suffering

John then tells us he then bowed his head & gave up his spirit. Only Luke gives us the exact wording. ***Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.***

33 years is a drop in the bucket compared to eternity. But for the one who had never felt the constraints of time or space, it must have felt like an eternity. But now it is over.

He has endured the **rigors of rural life**, the **humiliation of rejection**, the **shame of poverty**, the **scorn of misunderstanding**, and the **abuse of hateful men**. But now it is over. He can go home.

The weary soldier is coming home. He is leaving the battle field having conquered every enemy and secured release for all prisoners of war.

No longer would he feel the **thorns in his bleeding brough**.

No longer would he feel the thirst on his parched lips.

No longer would he feel the **nails igniting the nerves** in his hands and feet.

No longer would he hear the jeering crowds at the foot of the cross.

No longer would he feel the **humiliation** of hanging on a cross.

No longer would he struggle to breathe because of his position on the cross.

He would soon sit at the right hand of the Father, having been highly exalted.

The end of His suffering!

2. The Completion of His Mission

Let's dig into this powerful word spoken by Jesus.

A. Meaning of this word

Tetelestai. To bring to a close, finish, complete, fulfill.

Farmer – Bring in the last of the harvest. **Tetelestai**

Artist - Finished his painting or sculpture. **Tetelestai**

Priest - Lamb - no blemish, examined by priest. **Tetelestai**

Servant - Completed a task he would say to his master, **Tetelestai**

Banker - Received full payment of loan. **Tetelestai**

B. Tense of this word

Perfect tense. It stands finished. There is a sense in which we never finish our work. Always more that could be done. Sometimes, life is cut short and some task is left unfinished.

Writer dies in mid-sentence. Pencil falls to desk.

Builder dies in middle of a project. Hammer falls silent.

Mother dies before finished raising children.

Inventor dies with ideas that will forever remain hidden.

When Jesus died, He left nothing undone.

C. Gender of this word

It, not **He** is finished.

Scribes and pharisees said "He is finished!"

Demons screamed "He is finished!"

Roman soldiers laughed, "He is finished."

Jesus said, *It is Finished!*

The victory is secure. The mission accomplished. The job done.

In His death, He created a secure pathway for sinful people to come into a right relationship with the Father. In fact within moments of uttering this word of victory, one of the criminals crucified with Him would be brought into paradise, having been made right with God. That was made possible because of Jesus' death.

There is a sin debt that is owed by every person. The Bible teaches ***the wages of sin is death***. All have sinned and therefore all owe a debt that we cannot possibly pay. Jesus, through His death, paid our sin debt. 2 passages help:

Colossians 2:13-14. *And when you were dead in your transgressions, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us. . . and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

1 Peter 2:24. *And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, for by His wounds you were healed.*

When Jesus said, ***It is Finished*** He was indicating that He had done everything that needed to be done to secure your forgiveness. So, what part does the resurrection play? It is just as critical. The Bible says we are justified (made right with God) not only because of the death of Jesus, but also because of His resurrection. Had Jesus not paid in full the price of our sins, He would still be dead and we would still be in our sins, unforgiven. The resurrection is the **validation** of Jesus' claim.

In his death on Friday, Jesus declared, ***It is finished!***

Through the resurrection on Sunday, God responded, ***It is finished, indeed!***

All that remains is your willingness to accept by faith His gift of salvation.

Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

As we begin this study on forgiveness, you need to get this one truth nailed down. Forgiveness is costly! But thankfully, that great cost was paid for by Jesus Christ, the son of God.

Pastor, J.D. Greear illustrates it well with these words.

I remember a Muslim asking me when I lived in Southeast Asia, why would God need somebody to die in order to forgive our sin? He said, *If you sinned against me, and I wanted to forgive you, I wouldn't make you kill your dog before I forgave you. Why would God require some kind of sacrifice to forgive?* Here's how I answered him:

Choosing to forgive somebody means that you are agreeing to **absorb the cost of the injustice** of what they've done. Imagine you stole my car and you wrecked it, and you don't have insurance and or the money to pay for it. What are my choices? I could make you pay. I could haul you before a judge and request a court-mandated payment plan.

But I have another choice. I could forgive you What am I choosing to do if I say, "I forgive you"? ***I'm choosing to absorb the cost of your wrong.*** I'll have to pay the price of having the car fixed. ... You have no debt to pay—not because there was nothing to pay, but because I paid it all. Not only that, I'm choosing to absorb the pain of your treatment of me. ... I'm choosing to give you friendship and acceptance even though you deserve the opposite.

This is always how forgiveness works. It comes at a cost. Forgiveness means that cost is paid by someone other than the one who owes it.

The source of our forgiveness is in the cross of Christ. He **absorbed the cost of my sins**. This enables us to . . .

. . . be forgiven of the sins we have committed against Him.
. . . forgive those who have sinned against us.

Have you experienced the forgiveness of your sins offered by Jesus? You can!

Are you living with unforgiveness toward one or more persons? Like a cancer in your body that has not yet been discovered, it is eating away, destroy the good and robbing you of joy, peace and contentment! Maybe it's time for you to move toward forgiveness. In Christ, you can take the first steps toward forgiving others.