

Understanding Forgiveness-2

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[0 : 00] Thanks for checking in on this podcast. You are about to hear an inspirational teaching from Caris Ministries. If God has used this ministry to bless you in any way, please take a moment and write to us at amen@caris.org.

We are always inspired and blessed to hear how God is blessing people all over the world through what he is doing here at Caris. Also, if you would like to support this ministry financially, you can do so online at caris.org so we can continue making podcasts such as this available free of charge. Hallelujah. Wednesday I started teaching something and I was meant to continue coming Wednesday. I was going to teach something absolutely completely different, but in prayer I felt God impressing so strong on my heart to teach the Wednesday message, continue the Wednesday message today.

And so I'm teaching on understanding forgiveness. Understanding forgiveness. The power of forgiveness.

Let's all say understanding forgiveness. Understanding forgiveness. Can we say it again please? Understanding forgiveness. All right. The foundational text that I want us to look at is in Matthew chapter 18.

[1 : 36] Matthew chapter 18. God is a good God. Verse 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?

He was asking a question. Should I forgive him seven times? In other words, he asked me to give him my car and he goes to park in a place with no parking and then I get a fine.

He doesn't pay it. And I give him, he asks again, I give it to him. And he parks somewhere, he doesn't pay it. And now because of that I'm tightening the rules.

I want to pay him back what he's done. And he's coming to ask again. And Jesus, should I give it to him? How many times can I go on doing this?

[2 : 37] Seven times? And Jesus said that. Jesus said to him, I do not say to you up unto seven times, but up to 70 times seven.

How much is that? How many times is that? 490. Okay, some of you didn't know. 70 times seven is 490. Okay. 490 times. So can you be counting 490 times?

You have to get a book for different people. How many times your wife will offend you? Your husband will offend you. 490 times to forgive them all these times. All right. Then listen to what Jesus said in verse 23.

Actually, when you're reading the Bible, please take particular notice or take keen interest in words or statements or verses that start out like this.

Therefore. It's very important. So Jesus says, forgive them 70 times, 70 times. And he says, therefore, on the grounds of this, I want to open your eyes to some stuff.

[3 : 39] All right. Because of what you have just said, this issue we are dealing with, on the grounds of that, on the basis of that, I want you to understand. Therefore, the kingdom of God is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

What does that mean? The kingdom of God, everyone in the kingdom has got an account.

Accounts. And God likes to settle accounts. Settle accounts.

Some accounts must be settled for you. God can call you. He says, come, let's talk. We need to talk. Come, we have to settle this account. This issue that has been going on in your life. Come, we need to settle that account.

God will not turn a blind eye on what we do. He would want to settle accounts. Because if you don't settle accounts, the devil can step in quickly.

You have to. If your roof is leaking, please settle that account quickly before it starts to rain. Because your ceiling will all come down on you.

[4 : 44] One day you have to sleep. You have to sleep and the ceiling will fall on you. So you have to settle accounts. God, he likes to settle accounts. All right. So that's how the kingdom of God is like. Now, when you read the Bible and come across the word kingdom of God, it's not talking about a geographical location.

All right. It's not talking about, so when we talk about united kingdom, it's not, it's, united kingdom has got to do with the boundaries of our country.

All right. All right. All right. And then when you talk about kingdom, the kingdom of some of these great men, whoever lived and stuff like that, you're talking about their jurisdiction.

All right. So when we talk about kingdom, but when we talk about the kingdom of God, it's not talking about just a geographical jurisdiction of authority. When we talk about the kingdom of God, it means the rule, R-U-L-E.

The rule of God, the Greek word is basilea, the rule, the dominion. Okay. So when God is ruling, when God is in charge, this is how it is like.

[5 : 53] You understand that? Other times the word kingdom of God is, it's interchangeably used or is interchanged with the kingdom of heaven.

In Matthew, the book of, in the book of Matthew, most of the times the Bible uses kingdom of heaven. Most of the times in Matthew.

A bit of theological lessons. Okay. Is that okay? Now, Matthew wrote primarily to a Jewish audience and to the Jews, you don't mention the name of God.

It's so holy. You can't say God. So in order not to offend his audience. Now, for instance, if you go to, let's say, some of these like Asian countries, particularly like Afghanistan, like Middle East country, Afghanistan, Iraq, some of those places, particularly Islamic nations.

And you go and preach the gospel or yesterday, you're having Bible study with a group of people, maybe your living room or in a place. And you put the Bible on the floor, on the ground.

[7 : 02] It's an abomination. They don't take that. Because in their culture, it's sacrilege. It's an insult to deity to put the holy book on the ground, on the floor.

Right. So then if I go there and I'm teaching and I'm giving illustration, I say, God is moving. I do that. Now, all of a sudden, I lose them. Because I put the Bible on the floor or on the ground.

Okay. So you must understand cultures and how they operate. Now, here, you can do it and no one will have a problem. Some people will even put it down and then put it on their leg on it.

Not intentionally. In America, I found out that in America, I think it's a crime or it's against the nation, the state or the country to step on the American flag.

I didn't know. Recently, I found out that if you step on an American flag, it's against. So if you do that, you can be arrested and prosecuted in America. Because they hold their flag very dear to them.

[8 : 08] That is why when there is this all kinds of demonstrations in the Middle East, they have been stepping on the American flag. You can't be on this. I do okay. Sometimes we're going to fight. Maybe you can step on it.

But I realize in America, it's big thing. All right. So cultures differ. Different cultures and different ways they do their thing. And so we have to remember sometimes when you are reading the Bible, you must understand the cultural setting in which it was presented and written.

Hello. Hello. All those things must be balanced, in theological balance. Now, so Jesus Christ, or Matthew, because his audience were predominantly Jewish, Jewish, you don't, Bible says in the Ten Commandments, in Exodus chapter 20, that shall not use the name of man or use the name of their God, the Lord your God, in vain.

All right. So Jews actually don't mention God. You remember when I was teaching the names of God? Remember? The name. They don't, they use the name.

Hashem. Do that. Hashem. Hashem. The name. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The name. Okay. So when Matthew was writing to his audience, Jewish audience, most of the time, predominantly, he always uses kingdom of heaven instead of kingdom of God.

[9 : 27] Because if he says kingdom of God, he can offend his audience. In the same way, Mark, who wrote to a Roman audience, predominantly, he wrote to the Roman audience, who are Gentiles.

So most of the time, Mark uses kingdom of God. Some people will tell you kingdom of heaven is this, and the kingdom of God is also something. It means the same thing. Theologically, it means the same thing.

All right? Can I move on from there? So he says that, therefore, the kingdom of God is like, or the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. Say settle accounts.

Say settle accounts. Settle accounts. All right. So he wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And what did he do? Therefore, verse 24, and when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him 10,000 talents.

All right? Now, Wednesday, I explained 10,000 talents. The value of 10,000 talents is a lot. But as he was not able to pay, there was no way that man could pay 10,000 talents because it's a huge amount of money.

[10:38] It's like five mortgages put together. And if you are struggling to pay one mortgage, then how can you pay five together? I mean, pay everything off.

So there was no way he could. It's just that's the weight of sin. There's no way you can pay for your sins. It doesn't matter how much you punish yourself. It doesn't matter how much you rule on the floor.

It doesn't matter how much you self-inflict pain on yourself as it was taught in those days. Some people is in practice now. Practices now. Okay? They whip themselves.

I've forgotten their names. They whip themselves to make them punish themselves. Some of you have watched movies where you see someone with bruises because they have to beat themselves for their evil.

I'm evil. I'm evil. Now, there's no amount of pain you can inflict on yourself to pay for your sins.

That's why Jesus has to die because we can't help ourselves.

[11:34] All right? So the guy, there wasn't any way he could pay for to settle that account. He couldn't pay. But as he was not able to pay for his sins, his master commanded that he be sold with his wife and children and all that he had.

Now, in those days, it was also allowed. If you think about it with our Western mindset, how can you sell someone? How can you? The person can't pay his debts.

You sell him. You sell his wife and children. It's unfair. But do you think it's unfair if you are owing the debt? You are not paying. The beliefs come and take your television away.

You think it's unfair? Or do you think it's fair? I'm telling you, maybe some years to come, 100 years down the line, maybe all those things will look very strange. How can they come and take your television? Like just slave trade.

Those days, it was normal to buy a slave. But now, it's not. So times evolve and times change. In those days, if you owe, the belief is not coming for your TV.

[12:35] It's coming for you and your wife and your children. Depending on how much you are owing. Praise God. And so he says that his master commanded that he be sold with his wife and children and all that he had.

And that payment be made. Verse 26. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, Master, have patience with me and I'll pay you all. Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion.

Say, moved with compassion. If that Bible belongs to you, you can underline. If you have a Bible that belongs to you, you can underline that bit, moved with compassion. Moved with compassion.

Let's all say that together. Moved with compassion. One more time. Moved with compassion.

Compassion. Compassion. Compassion is a godly thing. Move with compassion.

In other words, I could see your plight. I could see your inability to settle this account. I can see it. And I know that you are frustrated. You wish you could do something about it.

[13:40] So the man was moved with compassion. For the servant's plight. So that he will not be sold. He can enjoy his family. He can be with his children and wife.

Verse 28. Verse 27. Then the master was moved with compassion. Release him and forgive him the debt. Verse 28. Say, but. But. Say, but.

But. Say, but. But. But that same man. That same servant. That same man. Went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.

Hundred denarii was just like hundred pounds. And you have been forgiven about a million pounds. And you found someone who owed him a hundred denarii.

And he laid hands on him and took him by the truth. Did you see that? Who can I use for an example? No, you are too tall.

[14:44] You may. You may. You may hit me. I saw your Batman belt. I don't come in trouble. Yeah. I want this one. Hey. Am I okay? Bible said.

He held him by the throne. Held him. He said. Pay me my money. Pay me. Wow. Pay it. Pay it. You will pay. You will pay.

And I'm sure he was pulling him in town. Everybody was seeing. Come here. You pay. Have you realized that if you are in debt, sometimes you become disenfranchised? When you owe people, they tend to have an upper hand over your life.

Can I chip this in? Brothers and sisters, you may not have enough money, but avoid borrowing. Bible says that the borrower is a servant to the lender.

When people lend money to you, they can control you. They can choose. They determine. You don't determine the interest rates. Sometimes you're going to buy a house and you use some of these corner side, back streets or mortgage lenders.

[15:54] Pay the loss. Huh? Pay the loss. Pay the loss is a bad one. It's very cruel. Well, if you want to relieve them, the penalty you will pay.

I remember the first experience we had. We paid heftily. Seriously. Thousands of pounds just for leaving them before a particular period of time. Right?

So, when you owe, you are disenfranchised. It takes away authority from you. Don't owe.

Determine not to owe. I think it's not wise to owe to dress. Think about that. You are owing to look like me.

So, you are looking for honor, but you are a dishonored person. You owe. You use credit card.

Store credit card. They say, I'll pay in 30 days later. Then why don't you wait for the 30 days and go and buy it?

[16:57] What did you say? Thank you. Thank you. I'll preach. Only one person agree with me. It's affecting a lot of people. If you find yourself in debt, the first thing to do to bring out yourself from debt is stop borrowing.

First law. Stop borrowing before you think out. But some people think they can come out of it. It's still using their cards. Their credit card. And you are digging deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper.

I don't know why I'm talking about this. But it's not honorable to be owing. Unless in extreme situations like you are buying a house, mortgage and things like that.

But you are owing to do a party. You are crazy. You borrow money for a party. People come and eat and belch and go and dance and go.

Think about it. You borrow money for wedding. After they finish eating and going, you start your marriage with fighting. So please, if you have a credit card, and you can, please, put it aside.

[18:08] Or you can cut it out. Cut it. That plastic. Cut it. You don't need an overdraft if you can't manage your overdraft. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Please. Other than that, the cycle continues. Because most of us are waiting for God to do a miracle. Then you can. It doesn't happen like that. Have you discovered that by now? It comes through management.

With the little resources you've got. If you can't afford eating in the restaurant, just buy something. Learn how to cook. It's cheaper to cook than...

Can we go back on forgiveness? Every now and then, it's good to mention these things. Because they won't tell you this at school. And some of us, our families don't... The family you are coming, it's a borrowing family.

The fact that they are giving you a loan... You've forgotten your auntie, your brothers. They all got loans, big loans, to buy a car. Big car, driving in town.

[19:17] And the car is like a grave. Because you can't afford it. You are driving. People are looking at you. And you feel good. And you feel good. You are playing big music. But you know you can't afford it. Playing music.

And then one day, after three years, they come and repossess a car. And you start walking. And then you are upset that God has let you down. And you are bored.

I don't want to even go to church. I'm praying fast. Nothing is happening. You didn't manage your life properly. Wives, help their husbands. They like buying too many gadgets. That small TV is okay. It's okay. Yes, pastor. And you know how we come up with a lot of good reasons. You know, I've had a gentleman. Anytime I see him. I went to his house.

I saw a very big whatever. I said, well. He said, oh, pastor. What did he say? He said, down payment. No. What? Payment. Nothing payment.

[20 : 19] What do you call it? High purchase. Installment. Install payment. High purchase or something like that. And then they will tell you six months credit free. Free credit. Six months.

No. They don't add their interest. They say free credit. I mean, how can you have free credit? How can credit be free? Anyway, let's go on. So, but I need to say that somebody should stop the borrowing.

Stop the borrowing. You don't need a new shoe, sister. You don't. You don't need a new shoe. You don't need a new. When I speak on the TV.

Okay. But I'm not going for the wives. Because sometimes they don't see the point in buying some things for the house. I know a gentleman. He got married. And the wife came crying to me after a few years.

He said, pastor. He's put me. When I married my credit was good. Did he? Because I visited them in the house. I'm talking about 11, 12 years ago. I visited the guys in the house. The can of sofa in the house.

[21 : 18] The fridge. I said, wow, it's nice. He said, some people want to impress people coming to visit you. I visited. I have a pastor friend sometime. I visited you. He bought this sofa from the people who were driving by.

You go to the house. And you sit on the thing. There's wood at the back. Some of you know what I'm talking about.

You may have to go to a hospital after all. But this brother was buying. He laid that sofa. Nice one. I didn't know. It was only after three years. The wife was dying.

Came and complained that everything is on credit. You're watching television and it's on credit. And you're laughing. Expert. Hey.

Don't laugh when you're watching television. Most of the Kushites and most of those of us who have not seen wealth.

[22 : 20] When we see money, we think spending. That's the poor man's language. Every money is for spending. When he gets any amount of money, he's thinking, okay, what can I do?

I've been planning to buy this thing. All of a sudden, he will change his TV. The new television. And the older, where is he going to? Because he can't sell it anywhere. He says, I have one TV there in my storage.

What is the one with the TV? Change the television. Every little money. Money is not for spending. Money is for saving. Amen.

Amen. Did I do someone good? Yes. So can we move on from there? So this guy went and held him by the throne.

He said, you. Sorry, yeah. I'm afraid. I don't want you to. You're so just going to come for you to be too. Held him by the throne. He said, pay my money. Pay my money.

[23 : 17] This is someone who had just been released. Of great debt. He went and got someone else who was owing him. And he told him that you have to pay. So let's see what happened.

So he, fellow servant, and laid his hand on him. Took him by the truth, saying, pay me what you owe me. So his fellow servant fell down the way he also did. Fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, have patience with me.

And I will pay you all. Have patience with me. I intend to pay it. Okay. I will pay you all. And then, verse 30.

And he would not. But he went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. Verse 31. So when his fellow servants saw, a fellow servants, people are also watching.

The way you are treated, people know. When his fellow servants saw what he had done. They were very grieved and came and told their master all that had been done.

[24 : 21] Then his master, after he had called him, said, you wicked servant. I forgave you all that debt. Because you begged me. Should you not?

Say, should you not? Should you not? Say, should I not? Should I not? Say, should I not? Should I not? Should you not? Should you not? Should you not? Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servants?

Just as I had pity on you. Thank you, sir. Some words here. Should you not also pity fellow servants, had mercy or compassion?

Fellow servant. Just as I had pity on you. So in other words, the measure you received from me, you should have extended it to someone else.

Do you remember the opening comments when he said started? He said, this is how the kingdom of God is like. So the kingdom of God expects us to extend the same measure to others.

[25 : 21] Now, verse 34. And his master was angry and delivered him to the torturous until he should pay all that was due him. Verse 34.

So, and then this is just the conclusion. So my heavenly father also will, so my heavenly father also will, so my heavenly father also will do to you, if you, if, to each of you, if, to do to you, if each of you from his heart, does, say from his heart, say from his heart, does not forgive his, forgive his brother, forgive his brother his trespass.

All right. So then Jesus said that if you can't forgive others, God can't forgive you. Serious stuff, isn't it? Serious stuff. Serious stuff.

Serious stuff. This is a scripture, or the parable Jesus pulled up or gave to his disciples when the issue of forgiveness came up, when they came to ask him about forgiveness.

So we have to appreciate in the first place that forgiveness is mandatory as a Christian. Okay. I spoke about how, what forgiveness isn't.

[26 : 38] And I said, forgiveness, forgiveness is not a feeling. Don't wait till you feel healed. Don't wait till you feel happy to forgive.

Don't wait till the pain. I don't know how many of you have heard this or have said that before.

Pastor, I want to forgive, but it hurts. I'm so hurt.

I can never. Some of us, I have said it. I will never forgive. I will never forgive. And sometimes it hurts so bad, you feel you are heavily justified. And you know what?

Sometimes we get to the extent of saying that I don't care the consequences of my unforgiveness.

I'm that hurt. I'm ready for any consequence. But what we don't, what we don't realize is that we are not ready for the consequences.

Because it's always heavier and weightier and harsher than we always project. So anytime there's a warning from heaven and we flout or we ignore that warning, thinking that, well, I'm ready for the consequences.

[27 : 42] Actually, you don't know what you're talking about. It's just like a young boy or a young girl, a teenager in 14 years and it says, of 16 years, and it says that, mom or dad, I won't go to school again.

I don't want to study again. He said, no, if you don't study, you'll be late in life or you are not likely to do well in life. He said, I don't mind. I don't mind. I'll be okay.

I'll just get money from the government. Then all of a sudden you grow and then Tory government comes into power. Now what happens is that most of the time we did not bargain and budget for the harshness of the reality we think we're going to have.

Somebody said this yesterday. A friend of mine was having a chat with us and I like what he said.

He said he had a man of God say this, that when you are a teenager, say you are 13.

Or no, when you are a child, you believe your mother or your father is a hero. When you are a child, your father is the biggest hero. Your mom or whatever.

[28 : 50] Then when you are a teenager, you realize that there are a few things your dad can't do and doesn't know. Then when you turn 30, you discover by research that there are quite so many things that you don't really agree with your dad about.

You don't agree, no, it's wrong. That's growth. When you are growing, you find out. And then when you are 50, then you discover that actually most of what my father was saying was true.

I've said this before. One wise man said, now that I am 60, I now understand the things I thought I knew when I was 60.

One wise man said, a boy always thinks his father is wrong, a teenager, always thinks his father is wrong.

So he gets a son, he has a son who always thinks his father is wrong. In other words, as you grow in life, you discover the realities of the things that you have been warned to avoid.

[30 : 07] The harshness. In the same way, scripture is warning us about something. Some of us, the blessing, oh, I like this. The greatness and the beauty of your future is so astounding.

God is trying to protect you so that you don't enter their bruised. Someone hurts you and they control your future if you don't forgive them. Every time you see them, and some of them are enjoying their lives.

And there are people who see other people on television and they are upset. I hate this man and he doesn't even know you are watching him. And you are fuming. Okay, just like football, you know, when your team is losing or the referee is bad or something, you feel like smashing that television or something, you are very upset.

They don't care. If you like, be angry. Throw a stone at the television. You will pay for it and it will affect them in any way. And someone put it on Twitter.

And one man said some time ago, you see, unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting your enemies to die. Unforgiveness is bad.

[31 : 17] It's bondage. Unforgiveness is not about forgiveness. It's not feeling.

It's not feeling. You're waiting to feel. Now I feel. Before you can forgive. No, it's not got to do with your feeling. And if you are waiting for your feelings to line up or come into the place where you feel now I can forgive, you may never forgive.

So unforgiveness or sorry, forgiveness is not feeling. It's not about feelings. Let's all say that together. Unforgiveness is not about feelings. I think this message is good for us, especially those of us who live in the UK.

Because in the UK and the West, our system is programmed that you really sometimes have to think about yourself. You don't care about what people go through. And when you need a miracle or when you need a breakthrough or when you need a job and you want to sustain your job, though you're a friend, you can lie on the friend and say, sorry, I can't help you, brother, because if I go and defend you at court, I'll lose my job.

And then you join the company and you see your brother going down in prison, though you know he's innocent. It happens. And that innocent person holds it against you. He said, if everyone, if anyone should turn their backs against me, not you.

[32 : 33] If you don't take care, that begins your demise, actually. Your demise and your downfall is not when they turn their backs against you. It's when you can't let them go. Then that they've got you.

They got you. If you can't let someone go, then the person really got you. And you become a slave to the person. So unforgiveness, unforgiveness is not a feeling.

And I said that forgiveness is also not a response. It's not subjective. I'll forgive you so long as you come and say sorry. If he doesn't say sorry, I will never forgive.

Some people will never say sorry. I don't know if you have discovered that. Particularly some wives must know this. The brother won't say sorry.

He won't. I'm not saying he shouldn't. But you know how he's stubborn. He won't. He won't. And you are waiting for him to say sorry before you can get on with him as your husband.

[33 : 36] Then chances are that forget enjoying your marriage for the rest of your life. Because unforgiveness is one biggest poison of relationships.

Unforgiveness will poison healthy, good relationships. Unforgiveness, it poisons relationships.

That's why I keep repeating this one with my spiritual father. I heard him say some time ago.

About how you don't, you marry for love, with love. But it doesn't take, it is not just love that keeps the marriage. It's forgiveness. Forgiveness will keep you together.

And then I want to say these few things which I started. Why should I forgive? Mark chapter 11 verse 25. Mark 11 verse 25.

Why should I forgive? And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, do what? I realize most of us can't talk anymore.

[34 : 44] We are talking about forgiveness. Okay, let's not read it from the screen. Let's read it together. Let's go. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, do what?

Forgive him. And that your father in heaven may also forgive you. If you have anything against anyone, do what? When should you do that?

When should you do that? When you are praying, when you stand praying, when you are trying to pray for God. So if you are in a plane and there's turbulence and you think that this thing is going down.

Before you say, God, Jesus, you say forgive first. Other than that, all that shout is invalid. All our quest, our plea, our cry to God is not valid if there is unforgiveness in our hearts.

So forgiveness is mandatory. It's a command. Why must I forgive? Because it's a command. It's a command from the commander.

[35 : 49] If you want life to be at your command, then you have to submit yourself, align yourself with his commands. When you bring yourself in alignment with his command, and one of his commandments is forgive.

If anyone, if you have anything against anyone, think about it. Yeah, he hurt me, she hurt me. What she did, I can never forget about it.

Yeah. See, the human brain is like a computer, even better than a computer. There are things that some of us here, you can remember. I met a friend yesterday.

He remembered things that happened 20 years ago. How I preached to him and something. And I don't remember some of these things. Sometimes some of you remember a tree under which you were standing.

Like Pastor Frank was telling me. He went to Oxford. Oxford. He said he remembers they were sitting on this seat, on a bench with Dinah when he proposed to her. You can't forget some stuff.

[36 : 55] And some of us, things that happened at certain places in your childhood, you still remember vividly. Okay, so if you are talking about forgetting, you can't forget.

Mentally, some things, you can't just... I mean, can you forget that you were bitten by a dog? You can't forget. So that, forgive and forget, or Pastor, I can't forget.

No, it's not about forgetting, but it's about releasing the person from your heart to the extent that you relate to the person as though the person has never done anything like that to you. Don't you remember?

Don't you remember? That's what forgiveness means. All right. If you owe me 20 pounds, and I forgive you, or I release you, I say, I've given you the debt, I forgive you the debt, take it.

Why would I still be, when I see you, maybe you are holding your pen, I say, no, give it to me. I won't let you have the pen. Or I had your pen, your pen was with me, and I decide not to give it back to you because you owe me.

[37 : 55] But I don't owe you again. We've canceled the debt. So you can't hold that against me. Or you can't keep what belongs to me because I don't owe you. In the same way, when you forgive people, you don't treat them, you treat them as you would have treated them if they have not done anything.

Even though you remember what they did. Now, this is where people get confused about it. They say, Pastor, but this person can't be my friend again because if I forgive him, then, but Pastor, I just can't, we can't be friends because I brought him to my house and he came and took my wife.

A friend of mine told me years ago, he got married. Some of us have experienced things like that.

Oh, okay. All right. Let me, let me, let me even use this way. You are, they happen to ladies a lot, but something happens to men.

Two girlfriends, they all found this brother. And then, it's my friend's, excuse me my language, boyfriend. And they were planning to marry him.

And I told my friend, Dad, how can you marry this man? Leave him alone, leave him alone. And I destroyed the relationship. And my friend too foolishly followed me. And destroyed the relationship. Abandoned the guy.

[39 : 08] Broke up with him. And went away. And then later on, I went. I said, you see, my friend doesn't know who you are. I didn't know your friend. And then by the time you realize, where did you tell you? Who? Your friend has gone for the man he told you to leave.

Now, and then after five years, you realize you still not found anyone. Every time you see him and there are babies, you are thinking that, may something fall from the roots and kill this child.

You know what I'm talking about. Sometimes you feel. Someone did something to a certain pastor who I know. And I think a church leader did something bad to him.

And then a church leader went and started the church. And the church leader started suffering. To pastor a church, you must be called. Hmm. Because people are very colorful.

That guy was suffering and frustrated. And in fact, to the extent that he ended up in hospital. And so this other pastor, who was offended by, when he heard it, he said, huh, good.

[40 : 15] I remember, he said, you learn sense. He says he's right. It's in us. Watch this.

Forgiveness is not natural.

So if you are waiting till you feel natural about forgiveness, you will never forgive. Because forgiveness is not naturally in us. Revenge is natural with us.

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. It's natural with us. It's natural. Okay. And so the question is that, pastor, but so can we be friends anymore again?

Yes. You possibly watch this. This is where you have to, I want you to understand the dynamics. I gave my car to Akwesi.

And let's say Akwesi went to smash the car. He didn't tell me. God forbid. Say, God forbid. Okay. I gave my car to brother A. No. Brother A gave his car to brother B. Oh, you can't smash my car.

[41 : 14] And brother B went to smash brother A's car. And then B comes by. A says, B, what have you done? He said, oh, B. B said, no, it wasn't me. I didn't know. And he knows how you did. A knows you did it.

But he said, okay, I left you. And then he came for the car again and smashed it again. All right. And he said, I forgive you. And he's coming for the car for the third time because he has to drop his friend at Heathrow. He's coming for the car.

And he said, oh, but haven't you forgiven me? Let me have the car. No. See, you don't understand forgiveness. Forgiveness is I don't have it against you. But I've realized your weakness. So I don't want you to hurt me.

So I won't give you the car this time. So not giving him the car does not mean you haven't forgiven him. But not giving him the car means actually you are helping him not to hurt you again.

Do you understand? But forgiveness is more a decision internally that I will hold what you did against me which has hurt me. And I feel it.

[42 : 18] I will hold it against you again. That's forgiveness. But it doesn't mean so. Your friend has betrayed you. Your friend has sold your house. And they've kicked you out of the house. And you started another company.

And then you are buying a new house. He's coming again. Asking you, can I come and live in your house? Now, if you see that the guy needs a place to live. And the guy is dying. You can actually go and pay for him to live somewhere.

So that he can be under protection. But you know that he can't take your house. Because if he comes to your house, you never know what he's going to do again. Though you are forgiving him. Do you understand that?

You are forgiving him. But you have now known his weakness. That's how it works. So I give my money to you, friend. And then you go, my card to you.

And then you go and do for one night my card. Next time I forgive you. But I won't give you the card. Because I know your character is not ready for that. I'm going to say something that is not nice.

[43 : 19] But I think we just have to say. I never checked. I never used to check my husband's phones. Not knowing he was texting all kinds of people. I never used to check his computer.

And it landed us a big problem. Our marriage. And something happened. He almost broke our marriage. And I forgive my husband. Now I have to, every now and then.

Let me see your phone. It's everything. That's not unforgiveness. It's just to rebuild the confidence and the trust. I left my money with my wife.

And she butchered everything. I thought we had savings. I thought we had savings. So the situation came up. We are going to release the money. Put the card in the account.

I said, oh. I said, oh. And I called my wife Jewel. Jewel. Where is the money? Oh, I have used it for the jewels.

[44 : 18] But you didn't tell me. Oh, sorry. Next time when you start the account. Now you give the card somewhere not to hear. Because she hasn't learned how to. No, you don't say.

You need to get in this house. I can't talk to you. No, no, no, no. That's pediatric. That's pediatric. Drop it. But now plan on how to live with your wife or your husband.

In harmony. In love. So that. And then put things together. In place. So that it does not happen again. So when I talk about forgiveness.

It's not like. He's my friend. And then later I found out. He said so many bad things. They gave me. Destroyed me to my company. I forgive him. When I say, oh, hello, my brother. How are you? It's work okay. You don't. You have to mean. He said forgive from your heart. You remember I said Bible. He said if you don't forgive from your heart. So you forgive him for your heart. Sometimes you remember. You see his face. You remember. You see the cap he's wearing.

[45 : 16] And you know where he got the cap from. It's your ex-company where he sent you from. So you are talking. You see the cap. But you see. Believe God. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. That's for Christians.

Unbelievers cannot fully forgive. It takes the Holy Ghost to forgive. Other than that. The poison is that if you don't forgive. You are punishing yourself. Not the other person.

Anyone who fails to forgive breaks the bridge on which he must walk one day. All right. So you see the person.

You smile at the person. If the person needs a right. Give him a right. Because that's necessary. If the person is hungry and you have something. Give the person. If the person is hard up. He needs money urgently to sort or bail himself from something.

And you can do it. Do it. Do you understand? Do it. Jesus said that if your enemy is hungry. Feed him. He said if there's to give him water to drink. If you do that. You are heaping coals of fire.

[46 : 15] The best revenge is forgiveness. Hallelujah. So give him.

Forgive people. Christians must know that it's part of Christianity to be a forgiving person. Stop making noise about how much you love God. And you can't forgive.

And you claim you love God. Oh. Give me a break. It is just religion. You are just being religious. It's not genuine love for God. Genuine love for God will make you forgive. The Bible says that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. Genuine love of God will make you forgive people and release people.

One of the days I was talking to one of our brothers the other time. He did something which was not pleasant. And I was telling him. He said pastor. I'm sorry. I said no, no. You don't have to. Don't worry. I have decided a long time ago to forgive you.

[47 : 14] Because I have discovered as I grow. And as I pastor more people. I have discovered that people will hurt you. People are. It's something they don't intend to. But in the good.

In the integrity of their hearts. They will do something. You will be surprised that. This person did this to me. Upon all that I've done for him. That's church.

That's what. But if you say me. I can't forgive this one. I wish. He's praying to. May God never answer their prayer.

May their air condition begin to produce heat. In the middle of winter. May their boiler break down. And then you are saying.

Hallelujah. I love Jesus. And you are crying. I love you. And you are ready for uncommon. Covenant opportunities. Oh.

[48 : 15] Miracles are coming my way. Oh Lord. This is it. This is why some prayers. We don't experience. Answer prayers. And we think God doesn't answer prayers. He has told you.

Don't forgive before I can answer. And you say. Father. God. I can't forgive. You have to answer anyway. Then you go around telling people. Ah. This thing doesn't work. I pay my time.

You are paying your time. Because money is easier to give. But. You can see. He can give money to people. It's like bribing God. Yeah. You can give money. But to live from your heart.

And release people from your heart. It is Christian. And God is committed to Christians. You didn't hear what I said. Elohim.

Yehovah. You are God. He said. I am committed to Christians. I say God blessing somebody. Is somebody being healed? Yes. The devil will use these things in you.

[49 : 12] Never. Watch this. Never say. Ask for me. Pastor. It's hard for me to let go. You are digging your own grave. Never say that. Don't say that. Don't think that. It's the deception of the devil.

To make you think that. Ask for me. The way I am. I just can't forget some things. And I can't just let things go. I can't. I can't.

I can't leave it. You are dying. You are dying. You are dying. My brother. You are dying. It's killing you. Am I talking to somebody?

This goes to all of us. I discovered you can never be so spiritual. Sometimes you will not feel you can't forgive. So if you feel you can't forgive.

It's okay. It's normal. But don't let it kill you. Stop it. Believe God. Receive grace. And move over. Forgive. And move forward. So if you don't feel you can't forgive.

[50 : 08] I'm not here to say that you are a bad Christian. But the fact is that. If you are actually a Christian. You love God. You do what God says to. And you want to do what God says to. So that God can bless you.

This month must be your month of change. This month. Turn around. But change starts with who? Not God. Because God does not change. Am I doing somebody good at all?

Quickly. The facts about forgiveness. Let me give you a few facts about forgiveness. I said forgiveness is a command.

I didn't feel you said the other one. Forgiveness is a requirement. That's why we should forgive. It's a requirement. But Jesus said if you don't forgive. You will not. Heavenly Father will not forgive. And then number three. Forgiveness is a.

It gives you spiritual leverage. It's like spiritual upper hand. Alright. Because he who has forgiven. Has spiritual audacity. You hear what I said? He who has forgiven.

[51 : 05] Has spiritual audacity. Leverage. Spiritual upper hand. Alright. Now. Facts about forgiveness. Number one. I want to give you something quickly. Number one. It is a responsibility. I'll explain it.

I said it last Wednesday. Forgiveness is a responsibility. What does that mean? It's your responsibility to forgive the one who has offended you. Even though the person may not apologize. Does that make sense? So. When. He offends me. It's my responsibility to forgive him.

Whether he comes to apologize or not. So that's the fact about responsibility. Responsibility. Sorry. Forgiveness. Forgiveness is a responsibility. Let's all say that together. Forgiveness.

Let's put it this way. Sorry. It's my responsibility. Say. Forgiveness is my responsibility. So. Whether you apologize or not. Forgiveness is my responsibility.

[52 : 04] And as a Christian. Apology is my responsibility. Whether the person is willing to listen. Willing to forgive. Willing to change. Or willing to let go. Or not. I have to apologize when I offend you.

Do you hear what I'm saying? So two Christians. That's why. See. If people. Husband and wife. Be Christians enough. They wouldn't need. Somebody trying to mediate issues.

Because. You the husband. Or you the wife. You forgive her. Or you forgive him. When you offend you. Without him saying sorry. You the husband.

Forgive her. For what she has done again. Without her saying sorry. Now. You the husband. You say sorry. Even if though. Even though she's not willing to listen. She wants to make an issue out of it.

You know you have offended her. You say sorry. Whether she'll forgive or not. It's not your. It's not your job to know. Will she listen to me. Will she forgive before I say. Apology is the responsibility.

[53 : 00] So long as you're a Christian. Of the offender. And forgiveness. Is the responsibility. Of the offended. Don't wait for somebody to say sorry.

Before you forgive them. And don't wait for somebody. To be ready to forgive you. Before you go and say sorry. Number two. One.

One interesting thing. About forgiveness. Is that forgiveness. Does not change the past. But it certainly changes the future. The past can't be changed.

Because it's already happened. I know some of us. Here have done things. You regret. You regretted doing. I shouldn't have done. I don't know what came up on me. I don't know what.

You know. Please don't trust yourself too much. Okay. Just trust in God. Because. Sometimes. Some of us. Under certain circumstances. There are things we can do. And there are things you can say.

[53 : 58] You will shock this game. Out of your mouth. My wife is laughing. I mean. Recently. Someone did something. So. Preposterous.

You can't believe. In South London. I was driving. He came from the other. Opposite. Came right in front of me. He's. Came right in front of me.

And slowed down. And then. He saw me. Come. I can't believe someone could do that. Slow down. Just stop in front of me. And then. Now looking for a place to park. Can't be bothered.

And then. Went and parked. Towards the left. My left. And. I said. Why did you do that? He said. Whoa. Whoa. I said.

No. That's wrong. But. I had disorder. And. It made me say things. That I should have said. I don't. I've never sworn in my life. Okay. So I don't know that. But then.

[54 : 51] I said. You know what? I blame your father. I blame your father. Now. You see. You know why I said that. I'm conscious.

Because of the way I think. The way people behave. Has a lot to do with where they are coming from. So. With that kind of. You know. Mindset. I said. I said. I'm a grown man.

I said. You know. I blame your father. And the man. I realized. I got his attention. And my wife said. Why. Why did you have said something like that?

I said. I need. I shouldn't have said it. No. I said. Because. When I was in secondary school. If you misbehave. Someone would say. Ah well. It's not your fault. It's your fault of your parents. So with that background. With that background.

I said that. But I realized that. I got his attention. The way I wanted. Because he was. He was ready to. Attack. Insult. Because he can't. He knew what. He could be important. So if you say. He will insult you.

[55 : 43] He can't care. I had to find a way. To get his attention. But that wasn't. Appropriate. You see what I'm saying. So. Under certain conditions.

Every one of us. May end up saying things. That you shouldn't. Have said. Or doing things. That you shouldn't have done. Watch this. Watch this. So if you know. You can do things. Have some of us done things.

You shouldn't have done before. Have some of us done. Said things you shouldn't. You know you shouldn't have said. Maybe on the phone. Or send someone a text. Oh. I couldn't. You shouldn't have said this. You spoiled too many things.

Now watch this. So if you know. You have said things. You shouldn't have said before. Then also. You have to judge people. Likewise. That sometimes. They may do something. That they. Later. Maybe now they don't see it. But later. As they go. They will realize. They shouldn't have done that. You know what I'm saying. And then. So. Then you can forgive people. Because. Forgiveness can change the past.

[56 : 38] They have done it already. But it suddenly changes the future. If you don't forgive. You are in prison. That's a nice one to tweet. If you don't forgive.

You are in prison. A mental prison. Number. Oh. I lied number three. Forgiveness is so medicinal. It's remedial.

It's medicinal. It heals. If you are. When you forgive. You feel like something has left you. When you are able to forgive. And let go.

You feel relieved. I feel healed. You know. There are people who are sick. Because of. Hurt and unforgiveness. People are dying on the sick bed.

Because of. Hatred. Hatred. And animosity. And pain in the heart. Kills faster than any. That even guns.

[57 : 46] Praise God. Someone gets to prison. You wait. When I come out. I will seek revenge. I will seek revenge. And they will go and.

Kill. And maim. And then finish. And said. Whatever they do to me. I'm ready. And then later on. In their lives. They realize that. Maybe they shouldn't have done it. Be careful.

When you are angry. Be careful. When somebody triggers. And touches you. Or. You know. Pokes you. In a way. That is not pleasant. You may react.

In a way. That will affect your future. Because people don't forget. Sometimes. What you say. When you are angry. You know. Actually. You don't have to forget. What people say. When they are angry.

So. Forgiveness. Is medicinal. Forgiveness. Is liberating. Is liberating. It's like. You've set yourself free. Now. Look at someone.

[58 : 46] Tell the person. Sister. Or brother. Set yourself free. Set yourself free. If you are sitting by your wife. Your husband. Even say it better. But say it to the person. Set yourself.

Or set out the person. Forgive. And set yourself free. Set yourself free. Please. Remember. I'm not talking about feelings here. I'm talking about blessings.

God will bless you. Don't worry. Don't wait till. The pain is gone. Sometimes. The pain may not go quickly. But. Watch this. God.

Guarantees you. He will heal you. You will heal. God. I've seen people. Who said. Pastor. I can't believe. That me. I've been through this. And I've been able to forgive.

And I've healed. That doesn't feel anything again. Because God. When you choose to go. God's way. He commits to healing you faster. God will heal you. And you will enjoy your life better. Forgive your ex-wife.

[59 : 44] Forgive your ex-husband. Forgive that ex-boyfriend. Who impregnated you. And left you. Stranded. And. Now you can't. Seem to have children. Because I made you a boat. A lady came to me.

Crying some time ago. She said she was a praise and worship leader. In a church. And then she found a gentleman. And managed to bring the guy to church. And she was interested. And the guy was interested. They met at a party. Party. Say party. So. The guy followed her to church. Because who would not follow such a beautiful woman to church. In order to. If that is what. The price to pay to marry you.

I'm ready to come to church. Came to church. The pastor saw. You see. Sometimes pastors can read far. The pastor said. My sister. My daughter. This is not good for you.

Say. Ah. Pastor. He's a good man. He's been coming to church last week. He went away. And they. Before they even married. They were busy. They got busy ministering.

[60 : 40] And she got pregnant. Before. But she was a present worship leader. She couldn't take the stigma. So they came to an agreement. Let's go in a boat. And she went and terminated the pregnancy.

And after a while. They got married. First year. No child. Second year. No child. Third year. No child. Four years. No child. Fifth year. No child. Six years. No child. Seven years. No child. This girl was devastated.

You know the guy. Can look at her. You say you're a woman. Your friends are giving birth. Look at you. Started maltreating this lady. And lady was dying. And she came to me. Crying. It's not a church member here.

I'm talking about five years or six years ago. Crying. I said look out. It's because of him. Now I'm struggling to have a child. And look at that. How can you tell a woman. You call yourself a woman. Your friends are having children.

Look at you. I need a child. And he started playing around. That's why it's sometimes good to listen to people who are ahead of you. When you fall in love.

[61 : 37] Please. Reserve some of your brains. To listen to advice. Don't collect all your brains and throw it into love. Reserve some that will listen to advice.

My heart is gone. I can't do anything. At least your brain is not gone. So. Start letting your brain inform your head. Try and pull. Someone said.

I love this man. A married man. I love him. There's nothing I can do about it. I want to marry him. I love him. And you know he's a criminal. I love him like that. Now what can we do?

And then because there's some people who stop coming to church. Oh. I'll wait. You'll come back for prayer. I know. No. No. It's no case. I know how life works. It's like your mother tells you to go to school. You say I won't go.

I won't study. I won't study. You will wait. In 15 years later. You will come saying that we should sign forms for you to go and do adult. What do you call it? And you can. I don't know.

[62 : 37] I know it will happen unless you just want to be frustrated in life. But your way out. Your way out is to do what you should have done years ago.

So sister. I know you are not married. All your friends are getting married. And it's like there's this social psychological pressure. Marry. Marry. Marry. Please. Because many times people don't mind.

I don't mind. I marry him like that. After you marry you realize that you mind big time. You mind. And I can't take this. At least I've got the ring. I've also been married.

Misses. But I can't take this. All right. So it's good to listen. Don't be in a rush. What is yours is waiting for you. Oh.

Let's finish this thing up. Forgiveness is a gift. Number five. Forgiveness is a gift. Say forgiveness is a gift. When you forgive somebody. You are not giving to the person. You are giving to yourself.

