

A New and Living Way! Part 2: "Freedom in Forgiveness!"

The Church is at its best when it's free and we are ALL-IN! Living out the life God had planned! We know Jesus didn't come to make us Bible experts but to open the new and living way God has planned... Our "job" is to find His ways in the word and go "all out" to go "all-in" to experience God's plan!

Clearing the air... We don't want to be like the Pharisees... Who could quote the word but couldn't live the life! "Woeful," soft, blind, hypocrites! Who could tell others what they should do but not do them ourselves! Doing the minimum's/never entering into fullness! Who nullified the words of God with their own vain traditions! **We want to be followers of Jesus...** Who was the Word *incarnate*; walking out God's will in the flesh! Who lived the life others want! Who never did the minimum amount to get by, but was all-out, all the time! Who snubbed the familial, religious and cultural traditions of men; for God's will! **We want to be co-laborers with Paul, Peter, others!** Imperfect but all-in followers!

Jesus came to renew the "living way" God had planned... Which was walking with, walking like, Jesus... propelled to right action by the will of God!

So... was Jesus ever offended?

Offended?

How about those Pharisees, Scribes, Chief Priests and Elders? Looking for ways to lay hands on Him **Lk 20.19** and destroy Him **Mk 11.18**, tried to take Him by devious methods **14.1** Wanted Him dead because He healed on the Sabbath and said that God was His Father **John 5.16-18**, they encouraged, even paid, people to bear false witness against Him! **Mt26.59ff** Mob wanted Him dead too! **J10.39, 11.8** Taking His Father's words and making them ineffectual by substituting their own traditions as doctrines! **Mk7.7,13** Making His Father's house a den of thieves! **Mt21.13, Mk 11.17, Lk 19.46** Stealing from widow's in God's name! **Mt 23.14** Ruining other people's lives and keeping them from God! **Mt23.13,15 Lk 11.52**

How about those disciples? Peter with those words of bravado! "Though all forsake you I will not, I will die for You!" **Mt 26.33 Peter and the Crew!** "Though I die, I will not deny You. All the disciples said the same thing... All forsook Him and fled!" **Mt26.35, 56** Judas, who Jesus knew would betray Him, **John 6.64, 13.21** sought opportunity to give Him up... **Mt 26.16** Paul, killing His people! **Acts 7-9**

Jesus knew what it meant to be offended... and to be tempted to unforgiveness! So, what action would doing God's will take Him? What should God's will propel us to do?

Offense/Forgiveness...

1. "When you *stand praying, forgive*, if you have anything against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." **Mk 11.25,26**

This is not a matter of losing salvation! This is a matter of losing connection! Connection is a major issue in prayer! **What are you going TO DO?**

Asides... Remember that this verse is attached to great "Mountain Moving Faith!" Have the faith of God! Truly I say to you that whosoever will say to this mountain 'be removed and be cast into the sea,' and will not doubt in his heart that what he says will come to pass, he will have whatsoever he says! Therefore I say to you whatever things you desire when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them! AND WHEN YOU STAND PRAYING...FORGIVE..." **Mk 11.22-24**

You cannot hold people in unforgiveness and the good things you desire at the same time!

2. "You wicked servant, I forgave you all your debt, because you asked! Why didn't you have compassion on your fellow debtors, even as I had pity on you? And the Lord was angry and delivered him to the tormentors. So likewise will my heavenly Father do to you, if don't from your hearts forgive every one their trespasses against you!" **Mt 18.32-35**

You cannot "hold" people in unforgiveness and not put yourself in prison!

3. "Judge not, and you will not be judged: condemn not, and you will not be condemned: *forgive, and you will be forgiven: Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, will men return it to you.* For with the same measure that you measure it out it will be measured back to you!"

Lk6.37-38

You cannot retain or restrict forgiveness and expect to have mercy and grace come flooding over you when you fail!

4. "Take heed! If your brother sins against you, tell him, and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day and turns and says, 'I repent!' forgive him!" **Lk 17.3,4** And Peter asked, "How many times should I forgive my brother who sins against me, seven times?" Jesus said, Not seven, but seventy times seven!

Mt 18.21 "LORD, increase our faith!" **Lk 17.5**

You can say you have faith to move mountains... but you show us your faith with your forgiveness!

5. "If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that *your brother has something against you; leave your gift there and go and be reconciled to your brother and then come back and offer your gift to God!*" **Mt 5.23,24**

Very misunderstood passage! Not: "If you come to worship and realize someone doesn't like you... go try to get them to... then come back..." *Some of us would never worship again!*

"If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that *your brother has something against you for something that you have done to him... Go... OR, "If you come to worship with something buried, something undone, something you're glossing over, if you want to worship (bow to God's way) go and make it right and come back to worship unhindered!"*

Asides... This is the "Burden of Brotherhood!" If we have created bad relationships we reconcile, ask forgiveness, quickly! **Mt5.25** Before we stand before the Judge! **25,26** If we have bad relationships we do what we can to make them right! Saved people care about their connections with "second selves!" **Lev19.18 Mt 5.43** "Love our neighbors as ourselves!" **6x** "If we don't love them, how can we say we love Him?" **1J4.20** Your freedom in Christ, to move with God, has much to do with the type of "bonds" you have with others!

Anything Else We Can Do?

Stop being so sensitive! Most offenses are misspoken, misheard, misunderstood, misapplied! Few people are really enemies... Learn to discern between demon activity and mere flesh!

Get your shield up higher! It's where we quench the fiery darts!

"Before the sun goes down," get your eyes back on God and let Him handle the rest!