

November 08 / Sunday

Love Your Neighbor: Forgiveness

Read [Colossians 3:12-15](#) / [Matthew 6:12-15](#) / [2 Corinthians 1:5-10](#)



09 / Mon – A fact of life | Read [Matthew 6:12](#) / [Colossians 3:13](#)

The Jewish people in Jesus' time were oppressed, harshly ruled, unable to defend themselves. These elements created bitterness and hatred toward their enemies, causing Zealots to rise up, instigate revolts and seek revenge. But Jesus' teachings ran counter to that belief. Instead he preached forgiveness. Jesus did not say *if* offenses come but *when* they come, this is how citizens of His kingdom respond. What is your motivation to forgive?

10 / Tue – Conditional forgiveness | Read [Matthew 6:14-15](#)

Forgiveness is a choice but according to Jesus, it is not optional if we want God to forgive us. A person might say "*but you don't know how deeply I've been wounded.*" God does. He continues to care for, protect, provide for everyone he created because of His great love but they too often will neglect or outright reject Him. Yet God continues to forgive. What do these verses tell you about the high value God places on your following His example in this regard?

11 / Wed – Blindspots | Read [Matthew 18:23-35](#) / [Romans 5:8](#)

You know you're forgiven. But your ability to freely forgive others may be limited unless you realize just how *much* you've been forgiven. If you have lived a decent life, kept the commandments as best you could, been generous and kind to others, it can be difficult to recognize the root of sin in the heart - putting God in the backseat and living with your Self driving the car. As you read Jesus' story, what insights do you gain about yourself and others?

12 / Thu – How often? | Read [Matthew 18:21-22](#) / [Philippians 4:13](#)

Yesterday's story was preceded by a very important question from Peter. How many times do you have to forgive those who hurt or offend you? The truth is forgiveness is not one-and-done. The first time is the most difficult because everything in you cries out for justice, but when you make that choice by faith, God's grace is available to help you reaffirm it as often as you need to. Have you experienced this in your forgiveness journey?

13 / Fri – Reactions | Read [2 Corinthians 2:9-11](#) / [1 Samuel 25:28-31](#)

Not forgiving someone can seem justifiable if they don't recognize their sin against you or if they do but aren't sorry. Nursing a grudge leads you right into Satan's trap. Have you ever heard his words in your head "*they don't deserve to be forgiven.*" In this story, David's reaction to Nabal's sin seemed to be justified but Abigail reminded David that God is the one who avenges injustice. Do you have any friends in your life who speak truth when you are blinded by hurt?

14 / Sat – Living it out | Read [Luke 23:34](#)

Jesus lived out what he taught about forgiveness. In the middle of the greatest injustice committed against an innocent man, he asked God the Father to forgive them because they "*didn't know what they were doing.*" You might disagree and say they absolutely *did* know what they were doing. Is it possible Jesus meant that if they knew who he truly was, they never would have killed him? Does this apply to those who have hurt you? Whether it does or not, Jesus set the example for us.