

Studies in Christianity

Barriers to the Gates

Overcoming an Unforgiving Heart

S#1.

S#2.

Text : **Luke : 36-50 ; Matt. 18-21**

A. Salvation is a free gift and available to all :

S#3.

Rom. 6: 23 –For the wages of sin is death, but
the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. However, one must qualify for the free gift.

1. Example : *Dealership offers free gift for first 100 people through the door.*

2. To receive God's free gift one must have faith.

a. Faith is born out of knowledge.

Rom. 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

S#4.

b. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Heb. 11: 6 – And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe** that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

** Must have been taught enough of God's word to develop this faith.*

c. Those with the faith to act are saved by grace through faith.

Eph. 2: 8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

S#5.

** The essence of the old Law of Moses was the willingness & ability to keep laws.*

3. One must be baptized in order to be saved.

a. Those who are to be saved have obeyed the gospel.

II Thes. 1:8 – ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

S#6.

b. Baptism reenacts the gospel.

I Cor. 15: 1 – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, **if** you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (Compare .. **Rom. 6: 1-18** .. We are buried and resur.)

S#7.

- c. When one's faith motivates him to be baptized, his sins are forgiven.

Acts 22: 16 – Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized,
and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

S#8.

- d. Jesus Himself linked baptism to salvation.

Mark 16: 15 – He said to them, " Go into all the world and preach the
gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized
shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

C. Little is said about prerequisites to salvation, but there are several.

1. We have just observed that faith and baptism are required before salvation.
2. This lesson will observe another, developing a forgiving heart.

I. You and everyone you have ever known need forgiveness.

S#9.

A. We all need forgiveness because we all sin.

1. **Rom. 3: 10** – As it is written, There is none righteous, not even one;
23 – for there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God

S#10

2. Those who deny their sin have no forgiveness.

I John 1: 10 – If we say that we have not sinned,
we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

B. More than we think, we all sin in many ways.

S#11.

1. The most obvious way in by breaking God's law.

I John 3: 4 – Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness;
and sin is lawlessness.

2. One sins against God when he breaks man's law.

Rom. 13: 1 – Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist
are established by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists authority has
opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will
receive condemnation upon themselves.

S#12.

3. One sins when he breaks his own law.

Rom. 14: 22 – The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God.
Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.
23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating
is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

S#13.

4. One sins when he thinks evil thoughts.

Matt. 5: 27 – You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery';
28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust
for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

S#14.

5. One sins when he neglects to do right or good things.

James 4: 17 – Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

S#15.

II. Christians are commanded to forgive, so not to do so is sin.

S#16.

A. Forgiving is a function of one's heart.

1. One who has been converted to Christ “puts on” a new heart.
 - a. This fosters a different view of others.
 - b. **Col. 3: 12** – So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
 - c. The Lord is the pattern by which we evaluate others ... *What would Jesus feel?*
2. This new heart directs the way one thinks about others and how he treats them.
 - a. **Eph. 4: 31** – Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
 - b. The Apostle is alluding to our text **Matthew 18** text.
 - c. Before one can be forgiving, he must purge malice and that grumpy attitude.
3. Forgiveness flows from a heart of love.

Matt. 22: 39 –The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

S#18.

B. Those who are unforgiving will not be forgiven.

1. **James 2: 13** – For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
2. The context explains that ALL sin is equal. *You break one you broke them all.*
3. The wages of ANY sin is death .. i.e., separation from God.
4. The law of sowing and reaping is applied here.

Gal. 6: 7 – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

S#19.

C. There is NO limit to how often we must forgive a person.

1. **Luke 17: 3** – Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, **4** and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him. **5** The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (ESV)

S#20.

2. Remember our text :

Matt. 18: 22 – Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

S#21.

3. Forgiving does not mean that you will have no response to the wrong done
 - a. **Luke 17: 3** – If your brother sins, rebuke him.
 - b. There is a response, but it must be tempered by love ... *NOT temper*
 - c. An appropriate rebuke may be to call the police ... *forgive him in jail.*

III. One cannot receive what he is unwilling to give.

S#22.

A. Our receiving forgiveness depends upon our forgiving others.

1. **Mark 11: 25** – Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.
2. The clear implication is that God will not forgive us if we will not forgive others.
3. Harboring grudges in one’s heart will keep him out of Heaven.
 - a. Grudges hide in the crevasses of one’s memory.
 - b. Forgotten grudges can be ignited by current events.

S#23.

B. Jesus prayed that our forgiveness would be modeled after HIS forgiving.

1. **Matt. 6: 12** – And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
2. **Notice** : Jesus puts it in the past tense ... as we HAVE forgiven
3. His prayer is based upon something we ARE practicing.

C. The story of the immoral woman worshipping Jesus in Pharisee’s house.

1. **Luke 7** ... The woman showed sincere adoration for Jesus.
 - a. She humbled herself before him.
 - b. She gave him something of great value. (*She was not impoverished.*)
2. The servants loved as a response and in proportion to what they received.
3. The Pharisee had few sins in comparison to the immoral woman.

D. The parable of the unforgiving servant.

1. **Matt. 18** ... The servant had no consideration for others.
 - a. The servant’s debt (sin) caused him to be condemned.
 - b. His cries for mercy were heard and granted.
2. Upon his release he started trying to collect from those who owed him.
 - a. He approached a man that owe him little in comparison to his debt.

- b. The man cried out for the same consideration the one collecting received but was refused and sent to debtors prison.
- 3. When the master of all of them heard what had happened he was angry.
 - a. When he forgave the servant, the expected result was that he would forgive others.
 - b. When the servant did not forgive others his forgiveness was revoked.

E. Jesus clearly states the lesson of both parables.

S#24.

- 1. Our attitude toward our forgiveness is reflected in our attitude toward others.
 - a. **Luke 7:47** – For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.
 - b. When we feel that we are not as “bad” as others, we are acting as Pharisees.
- 2. God demands that we treat others as He treats us. (**Matt 7: 12** – *Golden rule*)
 - a. **Matt. 18: 24** – And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."
 - b. The offenses we commit against God are much worse than any committed against us, so we are without excuse.
- 3. The Christian's response to forgiveness, is to forgive *A changed heart.*

S#25.

IV. Forgiveness is given, not earned.

S#26.

- A. Jesus forgave the mob from the cross. ... **Luke 23:24**
- B. Steven forgave the mob while being stoned. ... **Acts 7: 60**
- C. True forgiveness comes from a heart of love.
 - Matt. 18: 35** – My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.

S#27

S#28.

CONCLUSION :

- A. Though we do not deserve it, we receive forgiveness as a grace from God.
 - Eph. 2: 8** – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
- B. Those who are forgiven are truly blessed.
 - Rom. 4: 7** – Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. **8** "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.
- C. Is your failure to forgive creating a barrier to your entering Heaven?

S#29.

S#30.

S#31.

Lesson Text :**Luke 7: 36-50**

36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37** And there was a woman in the city who was an immoral person; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, **38** and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. **39** Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." **41** "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" **43** Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly." **44** Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. **46** " You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. **47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." **48** Then He said to her, " Your sins have been forgiven." **49** Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, " Who is this man who even forgives sins?" **50** And He said to the woman, " Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Matthew 18: 21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. **24** "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. **25** "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. **26** "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' **27** "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. **28** "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' **29** "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' **30** "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. **31** "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. **32** "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** ' Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' **34** "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** " My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not **forgive his brother from your heart.**"