

Forgiveness and Reconciliation, PART 2

A Bible Study on Forgiveness and Reconciliation | Scripture: NASB

Forgiveness	Reconciliation
Closes the ledger	Restores the relationship
Takes one person	Takes two people
A release	Repentance and rebuilt trust

1. Faith That Uproots

1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! **2** It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble. **3** Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. **4** And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." **5** The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" **6** And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you."

Luke 17:1–6 NASB

- **Mulberry tree** (Greek *sykaminos*): a tree known for its deep, aggressive roots
- **Be uprooted** (Greek *ekrizoō*): to pull up entirely, by the roots

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. **Mark 11:25 NASB**

Also read: Mark 11:22–24

2. Why We Must: "Father, Forgive Them"

34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. **Luke 23:34 NASB**

60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep. **Acts 7:60 NASB**

Why would Jesus ask the Father to forgive what was the plan all along?

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. **Acts 2:23 NASB**

17 And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. **Acts 3:17 NASB**

The Mercy Seat

- **Mercy seat** (Hebrew *kapporet*; Greek *hilastērion*): the lid of the ark where atoning blood was sprinkled (Exodus 25:17–22)

25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. **Romans 3:25a NASB**

- **Two thieves, two responses**

41 "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." **Luke 23:41–43 NASB**

Forgiven Much, Loves Much

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. Luke 7:47 NASB

Read the full parable: **Luke 7:41–48**

3. Poured to Echo

5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5 NASB

- **Poured out** (Greek *ekcheō*): to pour out, to give generously. The same word is used for the Spirit poured out in Acts 2:17.
- What He poured in, I can pour back out.

4. Reconciliation: A Change of Status

- **Reconcile** (Greek *katallassō*): from *allassō*, "to change or exchange." To make a relationship other than it was.
- Used for warring parties making peace and for estranged people coming back together
- Related words: *apokatallassō* (Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20, 22) and *diallassomai* (Matthew 5:24)

5. God Moved First

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:6–11 NASB

How Paul describes us:

1. **Helpless** (v. 6)
2. **Ungodly** (v. 6)
3. **Sinners** (v. 8)
4. **Enemies** (v. 10)
 - Reconciliation happened at the cross. It is a finished event, not a passing mood.

- Reconciliation is **received** as a gift (v. 11). We did not negotiate it.

6. The Ledger Closed

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **18** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2**

Corinthians 5:17–21 NASB

- **Not counting** (Greek *logizomai*): a bookkeeping word meaning to credit to an account (v. 19)
- **The great exchange** (v. 21): He took our account; we received His righteousness.

7. Handed the Ministry: Ambassadors

- **Ambassador** (Greek *presbeuō*): an envoy who carries the King's terms, not his own (v. 20)
- **We beg you** (Greek *deomai*): to plead. Our position and posture is to always plead for reconciliation.

17 If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me. **18** But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account. **Philemon 17–18 NASB**

8. What Reconciliation Requires

Case study: Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 42–45)

1. Initiate.

23 Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. **Matthew 5:23–24 NASB**

2. Address it honestly and privately.

15 If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. **Matthew 18:15 NASB**

3. Look for real repentance.

3 Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. **Luke 17:3 NASB**

4. Let trust be rebuilt over time.

Read: Acts 15:39 and 2 Timothy 4:11

5. Know the limits.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **Romans 12:18 NASB**

My Response

One relationship I will pursue:

Notes:
