

**TEXT:           JOHN 20:23**

**JOHN 20:23 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION**

**IF YOU FORGIVE ANYONE’S SINS, THEY ARE FORGIVEN. IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE THEM, THEY ARE NOT FORGIVEN.**

**TITLE:           FORGIVENESS**

————→ MOST PEOPLE SAY, WHAT DOES  
                  “FORGIVENESS” MEAN

————→ MOST PEOPLE DON’T EVEN HAVE A CLUE

- I BELIEVE IN SOME SENSES, WE BECOME OTHER MEN’S JAILORS
- THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE SET FREE

\*\*\*LET’S ASSUME SOMEONE WANTS TO BE FORGIVEN BY GOD

\*\*\*LET’S JUST SAY THAT SOMEBODY MURDERED YOUR CHILD OR LOVED ONE, GOD FORBID

- THIS GUY GOES TO PRISON, GAS CHAMBER OR WHATEVER HAPPENS, AND HE ASK GOD FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART “FORGIVE ME”
- NOW THAT DOESN’T MEAN THAT HE DOESN’T NEED TO PAY FOR HIS CRIME

<BUT>

- CAN GOD FORGIVE A MURDERER?

<YES OR NO>

- CAN HE GET FORGIVENESS AND CAN HE GET WASHED IN THE BLOOD, AND WHEN HE DIES BY LETHAL INJECTION OR ELECTRIC CHAIR, OLD AGE IN PRISON.... CAN HE BE RIGHT IN THE EYES OF GOD

<YES>

- THEN WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT GOD, OUR PRECIOUS LOVING, MERCIFUL AND FORGIVING FATHER HAS PAID THE PRICE FOR EVERY SIN
- HE DRANK THE CUP AT CALVARY OR GETHSEMANE
- HE DIDN'T WANT TO
- BUT, HE PAID THE PRICE FOR EVERY SIN THAT EVERY MAN WILL EVER COMMIT
- THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERYBODY IS FORGIVEN
- BUT THAT EVERY SIN IS ALREADY FORGIVEN

- WHAT IT MEANS IS THAT THE PRICE HAS BEEN PAID
- IF I MET MY COMMITMENT AND ASKED FOR HIS FORGIVENESS, WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME...MURDERERS AND ALL
- WHAT HAPPENS IF I REFUSE TO FORGIVE HIM, AND I HOLD IT AGAINST HIM FOREVER AND I SAY, I HOPE HE GOES TO HELL, I HOPE HE BURNS IN FIRE....HE TOOK THE LIFE OF MY ONLY CHILD
- WHAT HAPPENS THERE
- IS HE STILL SAVED
- YES, HE IS
- THEN SOMETHING ELSE MUST HAVE HAPPENED
- I RETAINED HIS SIN
- WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL...WHAT DOES IT MEAN
- REMEMBER WHEN STEPHEN WAS BEING STONED BY THE MOB AND SAUL OF TARSUS WAS HOLDING THE COAT OF THOSE YOUNG MEN THAT WERE STONING HIM

## **ACTS 7:59-60 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION**

**59) AND THEY STONED STEPHEN AS HE WAS CALLING ON GOD AND SAYING, “LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT.”**

**60) THEN HE KNELT DOWN AND CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, “LORD, DO NOT CHARGE THEM WITH THIS SIN.” AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE FELL ASLEEP.**

- STEPHEN FORGAVE
- I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO GOD FORGIVES WHO CAN NOT MEET THE COMMITMENT OF THEIR LIFE BECAUSE WE DO NOT FORGIVE THEM

<WATCH THIS, WATCH THIS>

- I BELIEVE THE REASON WHY SAUL OF TARSUS WAS VISITED BY THE LORD AND BECAME THE GREAT APOSTLE PAUL IS BECAUSE HE WAS FORGIVEN BY A MAN THAT HE MURDERED
- THEN THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THIS

## **PSALM 103:12-13 - KING JAMES VERSION**

**AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HATH HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.**

- IF I RETAIN A MAN'S SIN AND GOD HAS FORGIVEN HIM, NO MATTER WHAT THE CRIME....*THE BIBLE SAYS, GOD CAST IT AS FAR AWAY FROM HIM AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, HE CAST IT INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AND NEVER TO BE REMEMBERED AGAINST HIM ANYMORE*
- THEN, IF I DON'T FORGIVE HIM
- THEN I GO BACK UNDER THE BLOOD, IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA AND I TAKE THAT CRIME, THAT SIN, AND IF I DON'T FORGIVE HIM, THEN I BECOME A PARTAKER OF OTHER MEN'S SINS
- BECAUSE WHEN I GO INTO THE HOLIES OF HOLIES, GO IN THERE WITH MY FINGER PRINTS
- WHEN GOD WASHED THE OTHER MAN IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, HIS FINGER PRINTS ARE GONE

\*\*\*THEREFORE THROUGH SPIRITUAL FORENSIC SCIENCE, I AM NOW GUILTY, BECAUSE THE ONLY PRINTS THAT ARE THERE ARE MINE

- IF I GO IN WITH THIS BITTERNESS, ANGER AND HATRED IN MY HEART AND I'M CARRYING THIS LUGGAGE, I RETAIN IT, I REFUSE TO LET IT GO...THE ONLY FINGER PRINTS LEFT ON THAT CRIME ARE MINE, BECAUSE THE OTHER MAN GOT WASHED IN THE BLOOD
- AND IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I BECOME (BECAUSE OF MY BITTERNESS AND UNFORGIVENESS) *I BECOME GUILTY OF MY CRIME BEFORE GOD*

\*\*\*WE THINK...I JUST CAN'T LET IT GO, I JUST CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY MIND

- JESUS SAID, FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS
- IN OTHER WORDS, IF I DON'T FORGIVE MY DEBTORS, HOW CAN I BE FORGIVEN
- AND THAT'S THE WHOLE ISSUE...
- THE THING ABOUT THE CROSS IS NOT ABOUT JUST WHAT HE DID FORM, BUT WHAT I DO IN HIS EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS

<EVEN THOUGH IT COST ME>

<IT COST HIM EVERYTHING.....*RIGHT?*>

- AND IT COST ME DEARLY
- I COULD SAY IT COST ME THE LIFE OF MY CHILD
- LET THE BLOOD WASH HIM, NOT HOLD HIM, NOT RETAIN HIS SIN AND SAY LOOK, I TURN IT OVER TO GOD, I DON'T LIKE IT, IT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL GOOD THAT I HAVE LOST MY CHILD

<BUT I REFUSE>

- IF GOD WILL FORGIVE HIM, I CERTAINLY CAN FORGIVE HIM
- CAN I FORGIVE MY ENEMIES
- THAT'S WHAT JESUS SAID YOU HAD TO DO
- LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
- FORGIVE THEM THAT DESPITEFULLY USE YOU AND SPEAK OF EVIL AGAINST YOU
- FORGIVENESS IS A MUCH BIGGER DEAL THAN WE MAKE IT

- I HAVE THIS FEELING, THAT IF I HOLD MEN GUILTY AND LIABLE FOR THINGS THEY HAVE DONE AGAINST ME AND GOD FORGIVES THEM
- I MAY VERY WELL BE PARTAKER OF THEIR SIN
- AND YOU'RE BACK TO THIS WORD PICTURE
- IF THIS SIN WERE LIKE A BIG PIECE OF LUGGAGE OR SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE HAS TO CARRY
- IF GOD WASHES THIS MAN CLEAN AND CAST THAT BAG, THAT SUITCASE I TO THE SEA OF FORGIVENESS, I HAVE TO DIG AROUND IN THE BLOOD AND GET IT OUT IF I WON'T LET IT GO, SO I AM CARRYING IT AROUND

<GOD FORGAVE HIM>

<HE THREW IT AWAY>

<I WENT AND PICKED IT UP>

- SO WHEN I COME INTO HIS PRESENCE, I COME IN WITH THAT CRIME
- AND THAT'S WHY SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THEIR PRAYERS ANSWERED.....*THEY ARE GUILTY*

- THEIR FINGER PRINTS ARE ON SOMEBODY'S LUGGAGE THAT GOD ALREADY FORGAVE, *BUT THEY ARE GUILTY BECAUSE THEY ARE THE ONES CARRYING THE BAG*
- THEY ARE RETAINING SOMEBODY'S SIN
- SO WE ARE HOLDING OTHER FOLKS STUFF OUT OF UNFORGIVENESS
- IN OTHER WORDS, *GOD CAN FORGIVE THEM*

\*\*\*IF I HURT YOU, I CAN ALL DAY REPENT AND SAY I'M SORRY ALL DAY LONG

\*\*\*I CAN SAY I CAN'T LET IT GO, YOU DID ME WRONG, I HOPE YOU BURN IN HELL

- IF GOD FORGIVES ME AND I AM CLEAR BEFORE GOD AND NOT CLEAR BEFORE YOU, THEN WHOSE DEBT IS IT

<MINE NOW>

- I BECAME A PARTAKER OF SOMEONE'S SIN BECAUSE I REFUSE TO FORGIVE THEM
- AND I MAY ALSO KEEP THEM FROM THEIR ULTIMATE PURPOSE THAT GOD HAS FOR THEM

- BECAUSE I REFUSE TO SAY “LORD DON’T LAY THIS UNDER THEIR CHARGE”
- THAT’S WHAT JESUS SAID ON THE CROSS....*FATHER FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.*

**\*\*\*TALK ABOUT WHEN YOU HAVE A CLIENT AND YOU KNOW THEY ARE GUILTY, THE ONLY WAY TO WIN THAT CASE IS TO PLEAD INSANITY**

JESUS GOT US FORGIVEN, BECAUSE HE PLEADED INSANITY FOR ALL OF US AND IT WAS RIGHTFULLY SO, *WE WERE ALL OUT OF OUR MINDS*

**\*\*\*\*ALSO TELL THE STORY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND TELLING YOU EVERYBODY’S CRAZY**

- IF HE HAD NOT DONE THAT, I DON’T THINK THAT THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE FREE
- IT’S PAID FOR BECAUSE HE FORGAVE THEM
- HE FORGAVE US ON THE CROSS
- THAT’S WHY I CAN COME FREELY AND HAVE FORGIVENESS

- IT'S LIKE KEEPING OTHERS FROM BEING FREE BECAUSE I WON'T LET THEM GO
- GOD WILL FORGIVE THEM, BUT I WON'T
- DO I BECOME GUILTY OF CRUCIFYING THE SON OF GOD AFRESH AND PUTTING HIM TO AN ULTIMATE SHAME
- I PUT HIM BACK ON THE CROSS AND SAY YOUR DEATH DIDN'T COVER THAT SIN
- I BECOME THE ONE OF JUDGMENT OF EVIL THOUGHTS
- I BECOME THEIR JUDGE
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\*\*\*ALL OF US HAVE HAD CRIMES IN THE SPIRIT, CRIMES IN THE FLESH, THINGS IN THE MIND DONE AGAINST US...*EVERYBODY*

- MOST OF US HAVE DONE THINGS THAT WE WISH THAT WE HAD NEVER DONE
- SAID THINGS WE WISH WE HADN'T SAID
- BEEN PLACES WE HAVEN'T BEEN

- WISH WE COULD TAKE IT BACK
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- AND WE COME BEFORE THE LORD TO SAY I'M SO GLAD HE FORGIVE ME

\*\*\*WHAT IF SOMEBODY ELSE IS HOLDING ON TO THAT CRIME

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- THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SPIRIT OF OFFENSE....
- IF I TRULY WANT MY LIFE TO COUNT
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- FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS
- THE SAME DIMENSION I FORGIVE, **I CAN BE FORGIVEN...**
- WHEN I FORGIVE MY ENEMIES, WHEN I FORGIVE THE GUILTY, I ALIGN MYSELF WITH CALVARY

- EVERYTHING HE PAYS FOR BELONGS TO ME BECAUSE I'M WITH HIM
- IF I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, THEN I HAVE TO FORGIVE

**THEREFORE, YOUR PURPOSE IS SIMPLY  
WHERE YOU FIT INTO GOD'S OVERALL PLAN  
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- THE FIRST STEP IN THE RECOGNITION OF YOUR PURPOSE IS THAT ***“THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU BUT EVERYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT GOD GETS FROM WHAT YOU GO THROUGH”***
- IN FACT, LIKE THE SALT, YOU MAY HAVE TO SACRIFICE MORE THAN YOU WILL GAIN IN YOUR ***DAY-TO-DAY*** WALK IN PURPOSE.
- WHEN YOU ARE TRULY WALKING IN PURPOSE, YOU STOP SEEING LIFE AS WHAT I CAN GET OUT OF IT, BUT RATHER HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO IT.

**PURPOSE IS NEVER ABOUT YOU, HOW WELL YOU CAN  
BE SEEN OR HOW MUCH CREDIT YOU CAN GET FOR  
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- TO BE CANDID, *IF YOU ARE WALKING YOUR PURPOSE PATH PROPERLY, YOU WILL ONLY BE COMPLIMENTED ON OCCASION.*

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