



Forgiven So That I Can Forgive

Big Idea: Those who have been forgiven, forgive others.

I. Paul [Acts 9- Road to Damascus]

Truth: Paul wasn't simply not following Jesus, but he was actively persecuting the followers of the Way because of his zeal for his faith. And then Jesus showed up. Forgiveness and purpose were given to Paul.

II. Philemon [recipient of the letter]

Biography: Follower of Christ, leader in the church, the one who can offer forgiveness.

III. Onesimus [from slave to child of God]

Truth: The one Paul is advocating for. The one who has received spiritual rebirth and is hoping, by the teaching of Jesus Christ, it can impact his status with his now spiritual brother, Philemon.

Study Questions [Recall, Challenge, and Prayer]

Recall: Do you remember how much you have been forgiven for? Yes, God forgives and remembers our sin no more because that is not our identity, Christ righteousness is. But if you find yourself having trouble to forgive others, maybe pause a moment and remember how much has been forgiven of you.

Challenge: Who has God placed in your life that you have cast to the side because you don't want to forgive them? What can you do so that you can love them and they may know the love of God?

Prayer: Ask God to [1] do the work in your heart that only He can do by filling you with the Holy Spirit, [2] teach and help you to forgive.

[Matthew 7:24-27] ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." added to their number day by day those who were being saved. and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

[Philemon 1:3-21; 25] ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)

¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. . .

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.