

Be Ready for Christ's Coming - Forgive Everyone

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen emphasizes the necessity of forgiveness and self-denial for believers to be ready for Christ's return.

Duration: 54:15

Scripture: Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, Hebrews 12:14-15

Topics: "Forgiveness", "Repentance"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and the consequences of harboring unforgiveness in our hearts. It delves into the parable of the unforgiving servant, highlighting the severity of not forgiving others and the impact it has on our relationship with God. The speaker urges listeners to examine their hearts, forgive those who have wronged them, and seek God's help to release any unforgiving attitudes.

Transcript

The Old Testament is a history of God's dealings with his people Israel and even though we are not in the Old Covenant and the promises given to Israel are not the promises for the Christian, it's important for us to understand that because a lot of believers in many many churches and preachers go to claim Old Testament promises and they're not applicable for us today. Like the Lord says in there that he'll give you a land to possess and he'll make you abound in prosperity and give you your bonds will overflow etc etc and that you'll have many many children. Those are not the promises in the New Testament.

In the New Testament everything there is applied spiritually because it says we are blessed Ephesians 1 3 with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. In the Old Testament it would be they were blessed with every material blessing in earthly places in Moses. There's a lot of difference between the two.

So if you go back to those material and earthly blessings you're going back under Moses not under Christ. Ephesians 1 3 is very clear and but yet and so we moved into the New Covenant where the important thing is not even healing from sickness. There were many promises of that in the Old Testament but in the New Testament you go to the Epistles and there's no promise that Jesus will heal you from all your sicknesses.

Two of God's greatest servants Timothy and Paul suffered with sickness to the end of their lives but again it's transferred spiritually that God will heal us from spiritual sicknesses which is sin. So if you understand this difference we will not be confused by a lot of preaching today which leads people to frustration because they're trying to claim a promise which God has not given them. It's very important for us to understand we need to distinguish between the things that differ and the Holy Spirit will make us understand that.

But even though we're you know we're removed from the Old Covenant there are a lot of lessons we can learn from the Old Covenant. For example I know in my own understanding of body, soul, and spirit. Man is body, soul, and spirit we read in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 actually spirit, soul, and body.

My understanding of it became much clearer when I saw that that was pictured in the Old Testament tabernacle and we did a study of that in one conference here where the outer court and the holy place the most holy place were a picture of body, soul, and spirit and important thing to learn there is how to enter the most holy place how to enter that life in the spirit and that was through the rent veil which was torn when Jesus died on the cross and that symbolizes how Jesus never did his own will.

The rending of the veil we read in Hebrews 10:20 the picture of Jesus flesh or his self-will flesh refers to self-will that means all through his life whenever he was tempted to do his own will he never did it it says in Romans 15 and verse 3 and 4 Christ never pleased himself amazing verse never pleased himself and John 6:38 he never did his own will that's what rent the veil God sent his son not just to die for our sins but to show us by 33 and a half years on earth how little children should live how teenagers should live how working men as he worked as a carpenter how they should work and in everything whatever age he was whatever do thing he was doing whether he was a in a profession as a carpenter or a full-time worker he never pleased himself he always wanted to please the father

and he never did his own will he always did the will of his father and that's what resulted in the most wonderful life the world has ever seen now we all acknowledge that Jesus lived the most wonderful life the world has ever seen but I don't know if and we all want to live that type of life the Bible says we must walk as Jesus walked but we can't walk as he walked unless we are willing to choose that way of life and that is the meaning of the rent veil when he died on the cross and he said it is finished what he was saying was that and the entirety of man's self-will was finished every possible way in which man could seek his own do his own well was denied throughout his life tempted in all points as we are in never sinned well that basically means that he was tempted to do his own will

all through his life but he never did it and the end result was he could finish the entire range of temptation and doing a self will that's open to us and the veil was rent now the Bible says that that is a way that Jesus inaugurated for us to walk in it's not a door that veil we read in Hebrews 10:20 onwards is a new and living way not a door a door you enter in a moment away is something you to walk continuously so living in the most holy place of living life in the spirit is something that we have to choose every day if you walk that way we can live in the spirit all the time by denying our own will the reason I mentioned that is because a lot of our problems are because we live in the soul in our mind and in our emotions we live in our mind or emotions we're going to get discouraged

we're going to get depressed we're going to get gloomy and have seasons of joy it's never a steady life it's always up and down and we will think that our intellectual mind is also part of the soul it's the holy place our intellectual understanding of truth we think makes us spiritual it doesn't it's one of the greatest

deceptions I have seen even in our own churches in many CFC churches in India I have seen people who think that because they are clever educated they think that because they understand the truths we preach clearly they become spiritual that's one of the greatest deceptions in Christianity the Pharisees understood the truth very clearly yet they were the most evil people of all the Romans didn't want to kill Jesus the Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus who were they the people

who understand understood the truth of the Bible more than anybody else intellectually and that's one of the greatest warnings we have in the Gospels that the people who killed Jesus was not the Romans Pilate wanted to spare him the heathen are better than many nominal Christians who understand the truth accurately but don't choose to walk the way of self denial and they pat themselves on the back that they're spiritual because they can understand it or they can explain it or they can preach it these are all deception the proof of your spirituality has got nothing to do with how well you can understand or explain the truth of Scripture that only shows you've got a good mind that you're very clever but the truth the true spirituality is that person who's probably 10% as clever as you who

cannot explain or preach like you can but who's daily could be a woman who daily denying his or her own will and choosing to please God and never please himself or herself it's very important for us to understand this otherwise we live in a world of delusion imagining that we are becoming more and more spiritual because we are understanding more and more of the truth and you know in our churches we probably hear more truth than probably in any other church the things that we learn from Scripture here most Christians would not know you have more knowledge of the truth than most Christians today but it doesn't mean you're more spiritual a lot of those people in those other churches could be far more spiritual than you because they're seeking to deny their own will even though their

understanding of truth is less unless we have realized this we won't have a sober estimate of ourselves the Bible says we must have a sober estimate of ourselves and not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think that's a verse in Romans chapter 12 and what that means is don't think you're more spiritual than you really are don't delude yourself in 1 John and chapter 2 we read that when Christ comes again there are going to be two categories of believers one who will rise up with joy and boldness to meet Him in the air and another group of believers who will shrink back which means they won't rise up to meet Him in the air I mean where have you ever heard this?

Have you ever heard that some believers will not be eager to meet the Lord when He comes? I mean you don't have to believe what I say unless you see it in Scripture don't believe anybody who cannot show you something in Scripture see 1 John chapter 2 and see how you understand it verse 28 now little children very clear that he's talking to believers believers who are called in verse 1 of the same chapter little children who have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous those are the little children who've been exhorted not to sin because if you sin you have an advocate with the Father these are not unbelievers these are believers little children verse 28 abide in Him in Christ so that when He appears now there are two categories of people when He appears one who will have boldness confidence means boldness eager to meet Him and another second category who shrink away in shame at His coming which category you're going to be in?

It doesn't matter what people here on earth think of you whether you're spiritual or karmic the opinions of men as I always say are fit for the trash can throw into the trash can the opinion that every other believer here has of you it's worth nothing I'll tell you that it just means if you they have a good opinion of you it means you put up a good front before them so it's trash this is what will matter in the final day that when

Christ appears are we going to have boldness and eagerness to say Lord I'm ready not ready to go to heaven everyone wants to go to heaven is there a single person among the seven billion people in the world who doesn't want to go to heaven I've never met a man who wants to go to hell nobody the terrorists and suicide bombers they want to go to heaven too in fact

their religion teaches them that if you do suicide bombing you'll go to heaven immediately they all want to go to heaven but it's a deception nobody wants to go to hell but just like they are deceived thinking that if I go and bomb somebody for the sake of my religion I'll go to heaven we can also deceive ourselves that if I understand truth accurately and go along to the right church which preaches it I'll also be ready to go to heaven it could be a deception I'll be ready to meet the Lord not necessarily we must go by scripture and if scripture says little children some of you will shrink away from Christ in shame at his coming that means the Lord comes and you don't want to meet him because you're not ready to meet him that could be many reasons you know that Jesus said that if you

haven't forgiven somebody for what he did against you or against your family or whatever maybe he cheated you and you haven't forgiven him you may have very good reasons for not forgiving him but Jesus taught that God will not forgive you it's very important to understand the more and more I have moved among believers I have seen clearly that there are many believers who retain grudges against others while people say that was long along ago that's fine but you still have a grudge against that person for what he did and in some cases where they even apologized to you you still keep a grudge against that person for some reason or the other and in most cases they probably did not apologize to you it doesn't make a difference what Jesus taught us on the cross was that even if they crucify you

you have to say father forgive them they don't know what they're doing is really true when a worldly person hurts a child of God they don't know what they're doing even when they kill you know you think all these people who killed the Apostles they really believed that they were they understood what they were doing no can you kill a man and not know what you're doing Jesus was not talking about their killing him on the crucifying him on the cross what he was emphasizing was they don't know who they are crucifying everybody knows that killing another man is evil so when you say they don't know what they do it's not about the killing of Jesus the point is they did not know who they were killing they were killing the Son of God that's what he meant when he said they don't know what they're

doing they don't know who I am forgive them and this it's the same when when anyone hurts someone who's a child of God the Bible says in Zechariah chapter 2 verse 5 and verse 8 he who touches you touches the apple of my eye what a word it's amazing that God says that about his wholehearted disciples that you know the you know the apple of your eye the center of your eye is the most sensitive part of your body you can touch any other part of your body and you don't feel any pain but there's one part of your body if you touch it it hurts so much that's the center part of your eye and God says in the book of Zechariah chapter 2 that when anyone touches you my servant he touches the apple of my eye so if you're a wholehearted disciple of Jesus and somebody kills you or hurts you or harms you

in some way or cheats you it's true they don't know what they're doing because they don't know who they're doing it to they're doing it to the apple of God's eye and that's why we can say father forgive them they don't know what they're doing is maybe a small little thing but they don't know who they're doing it to they're doing it to one of God's special children so we we have to forgive and Jesus said that very clearly you know when he mentioned I mentioned this because this is one of the reasons why some people will shrink away in Christ think about the expression we use some will boldly meet the Lord and some will

shrink away and one of the factors not all the factors one of the factors why some people will shrink away is an unforgiving attitude or spirit towards somebody else and the

fact that it was done 50 years ago makes no difference God lives in the eternal present tense he doesn't live in God is no past present future like we have the Bible says a thousand years are like one day so what's 50 years 50 years like one hour so if somebody did some harm to you 50 years ago when God says that was just one hour ago he did that harm to you and you haven't forgiven him and say Lord it was 50 are years ago yeah one hour that's all one one days with the Lord is a thousand years so don't ignore grudges that you have in your heart against people who did evil to you long long ago make sure I'm not saying you have to meet them I'm not saying you gotta go and fellowship with them Jesus never went and met the Pharisees he never fellowshipped with them but he forgave them

forgiveness is an act of your will where you say Lord I have forgiven that person I say it before you I stand before you the judge of the universe and I was like you know taking a while in a court and you stand before the judge of the universe and say Lord I promise you I've forgiven him I've forgiven her and all those people anyone that comes to my mind you don't have to torture yourself about people you don't know if you haven't forgiven someone it'll be in your mind definitely if you ask the Lord tell me Lord whom I haven't forgiven I tell you in 30 seconds you get a list of all those names definitely because it's there and if you don't forgive them I can tell you in Jesus name right now you will not be ready to meet the Lord when he comes now you can take it or leave it I hope you

take it and I'll tell you why if you turn to Matthew chapter 6 this is just one of the reasons when we say we are ready for the coming of the Lord here's one thing we can definitely help you to be ready and I believe one of my callings in life the Lord's given me is to get God's people ready for the coming of the Lord John the Baptist got Israel ready for the first coming of Christ and the prophets in the church had to get God's people ready for the second coming of Christ so that's why I emphasize this when the Lord taught us to pray in Matthew chapter 6 and verse 9 he taught us six requests we must pray for one Lord I want your name to be hallowed on earth very important it's the first thing we should be praying for God's name will be hallowed on earth second Lord I want your kingdom to

come soon when I read of all the evil going on in the world all the human trafficking and sexual evil always my heart's cry is Lord Jesus come soon look at all these poor people being exploited come soon and bring justice and judgment on all these people who exploit others your kingdom come and third Lord you will be done in my life just as it is done in heaven total obedience like the angels and fourth give me my daily bread I want to trust you to provide me a job so that I can earn my living and feed myself and my family and fifth forgive us my our debts our sins in exactly the same way as we have forgiven others it isn't just forgive us our sins he could have left it like that no it's the one request where there's a description of how we want God to forgive us in all those other things

there is no description of how God should do it he didn't we were not told how he should hallow his name or how his kingdom should come or how his will should be done or how he should provide us our daily bread or how he should not verse 13 lead us not into temptation or deliver us from evil there's no how in it but when it comes to this fifth request we are telling God how to do it it's the only one of the five requests where we are specifically telling God this is the way I want you to forgive me I don't tell him how to hallow his name I don't tell him how to deliver me from evil he knows how to do it I don't even tell him how to give me my daily bread but I do tell him how to forgive me Lord I want you to forgive me exactly like I have forgiven that person and the other person and

other sister and that other woman and that other man and those other people and some of my family members and relatives and that boss at work many years ago and all these other people Lord I want you to forgive me exactly like I have forgiven all those people now ask yourself is that the way you want God to forgive you really you say no I want God to forgive me freely well he'll do that if you forgive all those others freely because that is the request forgive me exactly like I have forgiven others I'll tell you I want God to forgive me freely completely and therefore God is my witness there's not a human being that I ever interacted with or that I didn't interact with whom I'm not forgiven and I believe there are a lot more in my case than in your case because I'm a servant of the Lord

and the devil's been a I've been a target of Satan for years through human beings who try to trouble me and harass me and all types of things but I have forgiven every last one of them freely not only freely but I don't have a grudge against anyone and above all that I don't wish any evil to come upon any of them do you can you say that you honestly don't wish any evil or punishment to come to them who did so much harm to you can you say that or do you get a little thrill when something bad happens to somebody who hurt you I know long ago in my life it was like that I found a little delight in my heart when something bad happened to someone who had hurt me and the Lord said to me you have not forgiven that person from your heart you said with your mouth I've forgiven him but here I'm

showing you today you have not forgiven that person from your heart because you're a little delighted when that evil happened to that person and I fell on my face and said Lord thank you thank you for showing me that before Jesus returned because you know it's important to forgive a person in the heart and I hadn't done it the proof of it was I was a little happy when something evil happened to that person I'm extremely thankful for the Lord showing it to me and I decided to forgive that person from their heart that moment and I decided to apply that rule to every other person I had forgiven and that's not the only difference in the six requests at the end of the prayer out of all the six requests Jesus picked out this one he picked out this but one particularly and emphasized it why was

that in verse 14 he says if you forgive men their transgressions your heavenly father will forgive you and like you heard me say before it's not God will forgive you if he had said God will forgive you then of course it's probably referring to unbelievers but when he says your heavenly father that means he's talking to believers and the whole sermon on the mountain Matthew 5 was spoken to disciples your heavenly father he's already your heavenly father but he'll forgive you only if you forgive others and listen to this verse 15 if you don't forgive men your heavenly father he is your heavenly father right now you're a child of God no doubt about that but your heavenly father will not forgive you and if you die so we only say like the prodigal son father I have sinned he never made a list

of all his sins and the father said welcome that's how we come initially but once we are children of God every time you're aware of a sin when the Holy Spirit convicts you the Bible says 1 John 1 9 if we confess our sins he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness of course you cannot be cannot confess a sin you're not convicted of but you can ignore them but when the Holy Spirit convicts you of a sin whether it's in thought or in a word you spoke to someone if you don't confess it you're not cleansed I mean that's 1 John 1 9 if you ignore it one you will never get victory over that sin because you sort of overlook it as if it's something light so we cannot enter heaven if we don't if you got sin in our life that's absolutely clear no sin

can enter into his presence and I'm sure you don't believe that after you die you can get another chance to confess your sins that's out of the question because it says in Hebrews 9 27 it's appointed unto men once

to die and after that it's only judgment there is no second chance if there were a second chance that all these believer unbelievers who died would get another chance to get converted but the Bible is very clear in Hebrews 9 27 once to die and after that the judgment so it's very important that I live every day of my life with a heart that's free from any unforgiving attitude towards anybody as I said that's not the only thing but it's a very major thing because Jesus emphasized it your Heavenly Father he is your father will not forgive you when is he going to forgive you says

he won't forgive you and I want to turn to another passage Matthew 18 this has come very strongly to my mind over the last few weeks and months and I've been stressing it everywhere I go whenever the Lord lays something on my heart I know that people need to hear it so everywhere I've been preaching the last few weeks I've been emphasizing this story where Jesus said about the parable of the slave who was forgiven a huge debt Matthew 18 and verse 23 the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with the slaves and one slave owed him verse 24 Matthew 18 24 10,000 talents and the margin of my Bible says that is 10 million dollars in value that's a lot of money I don't think any of you can pay a debt of 10 million dollars none of us can it's a huge amount and a slave

doesn't even get a salary he's got zero in his bank account how in the world can he clear a debt of 10 million dollars so what does he say he says have more patience with me I'll try and repay it I'll work hard and do extra work the king was sorry for the slave and said okay you're forgiven verse 27 what a merciful king to forgive 10 million dollars what a merciful king that slave went out it says and found another slave who owed him and the margin of my Bible says a hundred denarii was a hundred days wages and I presume two thousand years ago a day's wage may have been about one dollar a day two thousand years ago is a lot of money so a hundred dollars it's not a small amount it's quite a large sum it's a hundred days wages and it's not something the slave could easily let go but when he

compared it to what he owed the king it was a drop in an ocean and you may also say what that guy did to me was not something I can easily ignore it's a serious thing he did the way he slandered my children and the way he did evil to my children it's not something I can easily ignore okay it's a large amount hundred dollars but as I said it's a drop in the ocean compared to what God forgave us so the point of that story is whenever you think of someone who owes you owes you in the sense that he's done harm to you compare it with the evil you did against God all the sins and I don't believe many of us see the gravity of sin many sins which we take lightly we will discover when we stand before the Lord are very very serious when you're far away from God you don't see the seriousness of many

sins the closer you come to God you see the seriousness of trivial little selfish acts and words which made a man like Paul would come close to the Lord say Lord I'm the chief of sinners when I think of all the things I did wrong the holiest man on earth Paul felt he was the chief of sinners because he had come so close to God and see the seen the gravity of little little things which most Christians took lightly so when we discover when you stand before the Lord one day we will be amazed how serious and how grave were the sins that God forgave us and the debt we owed him was immense and we'll see that what Christ paid for us on the cross was a fantastic debt that we could never never have paid in our entire lifetime eternal hell as a price for our sins we committed and we are forgiven I

was telling someone the other day who felt a believer who felt he deserved to be treated better by another believer I said do you know what you really deserve if you ask God to give you what you deserve it's hell go to God to say Lord give me what I deserve hellfire anything better than hellfire is better than what we deserve so I was telling him don't ever think somebody should have treated you better than that you

deserve better you deserve hellfire and if you got anything better than that be thankful but it's a proud arrogant man or woman who thinks he deserves better treatment from others how dare that person treat me like that how dare my wife talk to me like that who in the world do you think you are are you one you really believe that you're a hell deserving wretched filthy

good-for-nothing sinner I'm convinced about this that many Christians have never seen even once in their life that they're good-for-nothing rotten wretched hell-deserving sinners God showed that to me even though I never murdered anybody I didn't commit the gross sins that people commit and yet I realized when I came before God that I was a good-for-nothing rotten hell-deserving take every adjective you can think of and that's true of me that's why I'm grateful that's why I'm eternally grateful for having been forgiven and that's why I can very easily forgive others whatever they may do and if you find it difficult to forgive others let me tell you to your face my dear brother sister you haven't really seen what a good-for-nothing useless person you are in God's eyes you better ask God to

show you that and see what a rotten stinking use every adjective possible that's what you are in God's eyes and yet he forgave you so freely and for you to look down on someone else it's arrogance sheer arrogance that's what this man he put that man in prison as shocking now the serious thing I want to mention here is that when the king heard about it he called him back and here is an amazing thing which is not taught in any other passage of scripture very important to learn it as far as I know this is the only passage in scripture where this truth is taught listen carefully that all the sins God forgive you in your entire life can be put back upon your head you thought they were gone you thought God had forgotten about it God never forgets anything many people think when God forgives our

sins he forgets about them there's no verse in the Bible that teaches that it's if you read carelessly scripture carelessly you'll find that God does not forget the sins you committed in your past life from the day you were born he knows every one of them even after he forgives you what he does say read carefully Hebrews 8:12 is I will not remember your iniquities that's a choice I choose not to remember when you come before me I will not remember your iniquities I choose not to remember that's different from forgetting I'll tell you why it's impossible for God to forget I remember the sins I did 60 years ago is an unconverted person is my memory better than God's that I can remember what I did 60 years ago but God can't remember it I gotta be stupid to think that if I can remember it you

can be pretty sure God can remember it too but he says I choose not to remember you because you have repented and you come to me you've asked God to ask me to forgive you the Lord says I choose not and so I can stand before God honestly and God looks at me as if I had never committed a sin in my entire life that's what gives me tremendous boldness and you can come like that before God too as if you had never sinned in your whole life because God says I choose not to remember but if there is one person whom you won't forgive whom you spiritually catch by the throat or spiritually put him in a prison that you won't have anything you want something evil to happen to him then this passage teaches that all those sins which you thought God had forgotten he hasn't I put back on your head that's

what the Lord said you have to repay verse 34 all that you owed me that's what the king told the slave he was back to square one he thought he was climbing up to the top but he's back to square one it's like this chutes and ladders game you think you've gone pretty rough much to the top and all of a sudden you took a wrong step and back you're down I think in the chutes and ladders game you never come to square one you come to one of the other squares but with God you come to square one all the way down there just because you took that one wrong step you didn't forgive somebody it's serious and that's not all first of

all God put all of that back on his head secondly it says in verse 32 God called him a wicked person God calls a child of his who won't forgive somebody a wicked person

you don't deserve to be a child of man God says you're a wicked person I don't want God to call me a wicked person and remember these words are spoken by the gentle meek and mild Jesus he's the one who said it sometimes we got a one-sided understanding of Jesus he's just as merciful kind forgiving gentle gracious person absolutely true but it's one side of him the other side is he's very very strict on people who are not who are sinners but who are unmerciful to others we're all sinners but there's another side of Jesus he's ruthlessly unmerciful to those who are unmerciful to others he said that in the Sermon on the Mount chapter 5 Matthew 5 blessed are the merciful they alone will obtain mercy you know that it's very clear and so God calls such a person wicked very strong word the

second thing we read here is verse 34 God was angry with the Lord was angry with the person you think God won't be angry with you a lot of preachers say God will never be angry with you well in most cases he won't even if you committed murder you can repent the thief on the cross repented God was not angry with him he took him to paradise because he took the blame and said yeah Lord I'm guilty Paul was a murderer murdered Christians he became the greatest apostle but if you don't forgive somebody boy God's gonna be angry says here the Lord was moved with anger it's not just angry propelled with anger against this person for only one thing not because he went and killed somebody because he wouldn't forgive someone it's terrible you know a person can fall into dirty ways of thinking or even

fall into adultery in a moment of weakness possible but an unforgiving attitude is not a moment of weakness no an unforgiving attitude is a deliberate choice that a man makes saying I decide I am NOT going to forgive that person in my mind then God is moved with anger he's propelled with anger against such children of his that's I told you first of all this person's got to pay up the whole all his past sins secondly he's called wicked thirdly God is moved with anger and the fourth thing mentioned in verse 34 is God allows the torturers which are the demons to go and attack him until he has repaid all that debt I mean this is Jesus this is the meek and mild Jesus saying what does he say he handed him over to the torturers verse 34 torturers are the demons that means they make you sick in

some way do you know there are sicknesses that believers get that they'll never be healed from with any amount of injections and pills and treatment they'll be healed when they forgive somebody and you say does you mean the Lord will do that for God will do that to me okay read the next verse exactly in this way will my heavenly father do to you heavenly father not God heavenly father will do to you not if you fall into adultery but if you don't forgive somebody from your heart how many times in your life my brothers and sisters has somebody taken pains to explain this parable in detail to you or have you meditated and studied this parable in detail you know how the devil wouldn't like want you to study all these things he wants you to be with him for eternity the devil no wonder I've

hardly found I'll tell you this I was a Christian for before we started CFC I was a Christian for 16 years born again defeated most of the time defeated discouraged but I used to go to a good church I went to a brethren assembly where they studied God's Word there's no church in the world that emphasizes the Bible like the brethren but I never heard one sermon on this parable in all the years I was there never I said why why these left out they taught me about the tabernacle and about forgiveness and how we are justified and accepted and all that but they never told me that if I don't forgive others I won't be forgiven and if I don't forgive others God will call me wicked he'll be angry with me release the demons on me and put all my sins back on my head I never heard that but I thank God

that I discovered these things and if people are I believe that if God allows you to hear it it's because he loves you he sincerely loves you and wants you to have his best that's why he allows you to hear this message and I remember one in case you haven't heard this mentioned before let me repeat it for those who haven't about 37 years ago it was a very well-known musician and evangelist in India very famous who one day he came to our small despised house church we were meeting in our house in those days 1980 we didn't even have a building we were just a small group of maybe 40 people meeting in our house and this guy who's so well known and famous came to our church I was wondering why he came he said well brother Zack I've heard some of your messages and I feel God asked me to come

here okay and when he he was a wonderful accordionist he'd played before the Queen and King and all of England and all that so when we had a conference I asked him to play the accordion he said no I won't play I've come here to listen to the Word of God and he sat there just like in the crowd two years later he was dying and he was in a hospital in another town he called on me to please come and I took a flight and went there and I went to his bedside in the hospital and he said brother look at seriously and I want to say to you today brother Zack that I have forgiven every last one of them I'm ready to meet my Savior he died the next day then I knew why God sent him to our church two years ago all his fame as an evangelist and musician would not take him to heaven I told his wife after

he died isn't it good that he didn't go to heaven as a musician and a famous evangelist that he went to heaven as a repentant sinner would forgiven everybody I wanted to be a disciple of Jesus I'll never forget that and where God sees someone I believe God saw the sincerity of his heart and brought him to hear the very message he needed to hear and a lot of others maybe God sees them they are not sincere so they never hear it you are sincere God's allowed you to hear a very important message so when Christ comes again with boldness you can say Lord I'm ready to meet you my heart is clear every sin that I know I have confessed to you and your blood has cleansed me and I've forgiven everybody that I know so I want you to do something I want you with an act of your will forgive every person

who comes to your mind right now that you have not forgiven and make sure that you don't forget what you heard today that if ever between now and the coming of Christ I don't know how many years that'll be if ever ever that unforgiving attitude comes back into your mind just release that person immediately and you can come to a life I'll tell you because there were times in my life when I had this unforgiving attitude you and I was not ready to meet the Lord God had mercy on me but I can say today I live in another realm today I live inside the veil in the most holy place where my will is not important I don't you know why is it we don't forgive someone I'll tell you we get a certain pleasure out of not forgiving that person why do people go after sex there's a pleasure in it why do

people go after money there's a pleasure in getting a lot of money why do people eat any type of food which they like there's a pleasure in it why is it you don't forgive somebody whether you believe it or not there is a pleasure in it we never do things that hurt us you won't go cut yourself with a knife because that hurts you everything we do whether you didn't realize it or not it's because you find a certain pleasure in having that unforgiving attitude towards that person and you gotta hate it you gotta put that self of yours out of the throne of your life and put it to death and put Christ there it's no longer I but Christ and you can do that today and say Lord this is just one area but as you open up your life to God in this area the Lord will begin to show you so many things and

your life will like the Bible says go from one degree of glory to another let's bow our heads in prayer God is a good God as we just sang God is good all the time and he's been good to us but when we sing that he's

put a song in this heart of mine we don't want it to be imaginary you will not have that song if in your heart if you haven't forgiven somebody you only have it in your mouth and your mind but not in your heart determined right now as you bow before God say Lord just show me there's anyone I haven't forgiven right now is anybody in this church perhaps you got a grudge against you wouldn't think there is but perhaps there is you're probably such a proud person that you got a grudge against somebody in this church only proud people will have a grudge against somebody in their own

church a humble person will never have it you're a very proud person if you've got a grudge against anyone in this church I'll tell you that say Lord I forgive begin there begin in your own church and then begin with your relatives and then go to your former bosses and people you worked for and work for today say Lord I want to forgive and neighbors and whoever you can think of say Lord I want to forgive every one of them you've forgiven me so much and if you find it difficult to forgive someone because they did so much harm to you or your family then ask the Lord to help you His Holy Spirit is there to help you to forgive that person from your heart we want to mean business with God before we move on there are wonderful things God has in store for us but we have to get past this hurdle

before we possess those things which God has for us and perhaps this is the thing that's blocked the channel so that you couldn't be filled with the Holy Spirit even though you prayed for years to be baptized in the Holy Spirit nothing happened you claimed it by faith and nothing happened but nothing will happen because there's a block in the channel but you're clearing it today you're getting rid of it and the floodgates of heaven will be open over your life and your life will be entirely different say Lord I forgive completely help me to forgive from the heart help me to release everyone help me not to have my hand on anybody's throat and be merciful to me because I have been extremely unmerciful to others but I want to change today please help me I've been so judgmental and critical of

everybody around me thinking that I am Almighty God forgive me for sitting on the throne of God and judging everybody else Lord forgive me and help me to take the low place at the foot of your throne from today onwards and not to sit on it as a judge I want to be merciful to everyone please cleanse me from my unmerciful attitude I humbly ask I pray the blood of Jesus will blot out this which I've discovered today and I never ever want to have it again in my life preserve me Lord remind me anytime this evil tries to creep into my heart again I want to be free and I want to be like the birds in the air flying towards you help me Lord and I believe you will Heavenly Father I believe there are some at least here who are sincerely crying out to you today I pray it'll be everyone and I pray

that there'll be a release that will come into their life as they forgive others a healing

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