

You Can Live FREE Of Bitterness!

Deut. 30:19-20

19. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

20. and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life,

Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor (beggars) in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Matthew 5:6 - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Matthew 5:8 - "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Matthew 5: 7 - "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Jeremiah 3:12 - "I am merciful!"

Micah 6:8 – "He [God] has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly

Matthew 12:7 - "I desire mercy, not sacrifice..."

Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved."

Psalm 103:8-12 - "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love... he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Colossians 3:12-13 - "As God's people... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

William Barclay - "The mercy Jesus described in Matthew 5:7 is the mercy of a person who does not just sympathize with another person, but makes the effort to get inside the other person's skin until he or she sees with their eyes, thinks with their mind and feels with their feelings.

C.S. Lewis - "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

Forgiveness = To grant free pardon or remission of any offense or debt; to give up all claim.

Forgiving dem

Rascals

Even dem

Enemies

1) Forgiveness is not just a suggestion, it's a command!

Matt 6:14-15 - For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Mk. 11:25 - And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. "

Mat. 5:23,24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Pr. 19:11 - A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Pr. 19:19:20 - Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

Pr. 24:29 - Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did."

Col 3:12-13 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

2) Forgiveness is Limitless!

Matt. 18:21-22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Gen. 4:24 - "If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

1 Cor. 13:5 - Love keeps no record of wrongs.

1Pet. 4:8 - Love covers a multitude of sins.

Ps 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

3) Unforgiveness will bring incredible hardships into your life!

Abigail Van Buren - "People who fight fire with fire usually end up with ashes."

Matt. 18:23-35

23. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

25. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

27. The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30. "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

33. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

34. In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Mat. 6:14-15 - If we don't forgive, we cannot be forgiven.

Matt. 18:34a - In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured...

Matt. 18:34b - ...until he should pay back all he owed...

Max Lucado - "Bitterness is its own prison!"

James 2:13 - "For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you."

Pr. 28:13 - He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Heb 12:15 - See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Lewis Smedes - "If we say that monsters (people who do terrible evil) are beyond forgiving, we give them a power they should never have...they are given the power to keep their evil alive in the hearts of those who suffered most. We give them power to condemn their victims to live forever with the hurting memory of their painful pasts. We give the monsters the last word."

4) Forgiveness is an act of the will! (Not my will, but your will be done)

5) Forgiveness and, if possible, reconciliation is always the answer!

1 Cor. 5:16-19

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Rom 12:14-18

14. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

18. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Matthew 5: 7 - "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."