



The Life of Forgiveness

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY I—Unforgiveness: A Hindrance to Faith

A. Mark 11:22-26—Faith Won't Work in an Unforgiving Heart

1. Verses 22-26: "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. **And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**"
2. Choose to forgive without delay or unforgiveness will block your faith.
3. Matthew 6:12 (New Matthew Bible) "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us."
4. "There are many hindrances to faith. Just go through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But unforgiveness is the only one Jesus said anything about." —Kenneth E. Hagin
5. Faith will not work in an unforgiving heart.
6. Faith is essential. There are many reasons why:
 - a. We can't get saved without it (Ephesians 2:8).
 - b. We can't walk the Christian walk without faith (2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).
 - c. We can't be blessed without it (Galatians 3:9).
 - d. We are guarded by God's power through faith (1 Peter 1:5 AMPC).
 - e. Faith makes us whole. It brings healing (Matthew 9:22, 29; Mark 10:52; James 5:15).
 - f. All grace is by faith (Ephesians 2:8).
 - g. By faith we have what we hope for (Hebrews 11:1).
 - h. We can't fight the good fight without faith (1 Timothy 6:12 NKJV).
 - i. We can't quench fiery darts without faith. Our armor depends on it (Ephesians 6:11-13, 16).
 - j. We can't overcome the world without faith (1 John 5:4).
 - k. Without the preaching and hearing of faith, there is no ministry of the Holy Spirit and no miracles worked (Galatians 3:5).
 - l. Our faith is more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7 AMPC).
 - m. We can't stand without faith (2 Corinthians 1:24).
 - n. All else apart from faith is sin (Romans 14:23).
 - o. We are commanded to have faith—and not just any kind of faith. Have faith in God (Mark 11:22).





7. But all the reasons are summed up in this: by faith Enoch pleased God because he walked with God (Hebrews 11:5-6). Without faith, there is no walk with God. We do not want to weaken, hinder, or even stop our faith because of unforgiveness.

B. **Matthew 18:21-35 (AMPC)—The Man With the Unforgiving Heart**

21 Then Peter came up to Him and said, Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me and I forgive him and let it go? [As many as] up to seven times?

22 Jesus answered him, I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven!

23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a human king who wished to settle accounts with his attendants.

24 When he began the accounting, one was brought to him who owed him 10,000 talents [probably about \$10,000,000],

25 And because he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and his children and everything that he possessed, and payment to be made.

26 So the attendant fell on his knees, begging him, Have patience with me and I will pay you everything.

27 And his master's heart was moved with compassion, and he released him and forgave him [cancelling] the debt.

28 But that same attendant, as he went out, found one of his fellow attendants who owed him a hundred denarii [about twenty dollars]; and he caught him by the throat and said, Pay what you owe!

29 So his fellow attendant fell down and begged him earnestly, Give me time, and I will pay you all!

30 But he was unwilling, and he went out and had him put in prison till he should pay the debt.

31 When his fellow attendants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and told everything that had taken place to their master.

32 Then his master called him and said to him, You contemptible and wicked attendant! I forgave and cancelled all that [great] debt of yours because you begged me to.

33 And should you not have had pity and mercy on your fellow attendant, as I had pity and mercy on you?

34 And in wrath his master turned him over to the torturers (the jailers), till he should pay all that he owed.

35 So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart his offenses.

Unforgiveness shuts God out. He is Love. If we choose unforgiveness over Him, He can't get anything to us.



C. The Life of Forgiveness

Whenever Kenneth Hagin's prayers weren't being answered and his faith wasn't working, the first place he would look was at his love walk. He would ask himself, "Am I holding a grudge or harboring bitterness, animosity or unforgiveness toward anyone?"

Once he straightened out those issues, he would go back to what he was believing for, refuse to budge his stand and see the desired results.

Our faith will go to another level and will work more proficiently when we live “The Life of Forgiveness.”

We must allow the Holy Spirit to show us what we may not have recognized as unforgiveness or bitterness.

Example: Keith's message on bitterness, Pastor Terri's response and the chain of events, with drastic results, that changed our lives and ministry.

Forgiveness is a decision of quality, one from which there is no turning or debate.

Pray now for the Lord to show you, and make the make the commitment that He will always have freedom to speak correction into your life.

Notes

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The Life of Forgiveness

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY 2—The Command to Forgive

A. Mark 11:22-26—Forgive When You Stand Praying

1. Verses 22-26 (AMPC): “And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly]. Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings.”
 - a. Faith is important to love because people can be difficult—and we can be stubborn.
 - b. Faith operates by love and love by faith.
 - c. Forgiving means you let it go and don't try to find it or rehearse it.
2. Verse 25 (NLT): “But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”
3. Verse 25 (MSG): “And when you assume the posture of prayer, remember that it's not all asking. If you have anything against someone, forgive—only then will your heavenly Father be inclined to also wipe your slate clean of sins.”

B. Ephesians 4:31-32—Forgive One Another

1. Everyone has had things done and said to them that have caused hurt and offense. Some big. Some small. The small ones are dangerous because we may not check ourselves and be sure we aren't holding on to it. Then when someone has enough “demerits,” we “let them have it.”
2. To walk in unforgiveness is to harbor, hold on to and store in your heart the offense, bitterness, hatred, animosity, resentment, anger and ill will toward those who have hurt you, falsely accused you, let you down, abandoned you, made life miserable for you, stabbed you in the back, rejected you and done you wrong.
3. Verses 31-32 (NKJV): “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice (or all levels of ill-will). And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
 - a. MSG: “Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.”
 - b. Verse 32 (AMPC): “...forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.”





- c. "A major attribute of Nelson Mandela was that he forgave easily." —Christine Blumstein
 - i. He had a Joseph-like testimony.
 - ii. Joseph forgave and went from prison to a position of nationwide leadership (Same as Nelson Mandela).
 - iii. His forgiveness was over serious abuses.
- 4. *Forgive* (GK) = to completely and permanently remove offense
 - a. Send away e. Lay aside
 - b. Dismiss f. Cancel
 - c. Release g. Pardon
 - d. Let go h. Wipe the slate clean
- 5. "But, Pastor—you don't know what they did. I can't forgive them."
 - a. You not only *can* forgive them
 - b. For your sake, you *must* forgive them—by faith.
 - c. Forgiveness is not based on feelings. It is a decision.
 - d. This is why Jesus taught faith first. "Have faith in God." He will help you. Love Himself comes on the scene.

C. A Testimony of Forgiveness

After many, many years, I have been able to forgive my mother-in-law.

Through the years, she had done everything she could to break up my marriage to her son. She went so far as to try to put me in prison. I tried to forgive her many times. I realized what unforgiveness does to our physical body and spiritual life.

Then, during one of your Sunday sermons on forgiveness, the Lord spoke to me and said, *You are the adult in this situation. You need to ask her to forgive you for anything you did to hurt her.*

After many years of not speaking, we called to let her know we wanted her forgiveness. And, that we loved her.

She forgave us both and told us that she loved us.

At that point, the horrible burden was lifted from both my husband and me. Everything about the past just melted away.

Notes



The Life of Forgiveness

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY 3—The Detrimental Effects of Unforgiveness

A. Mark 11:25-26—Forgive When You Stand Praying

1. Verses 25-26 (AMPC): “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings.”
2. Verse 25 (NLT): “But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”
3. Verse 25 (MSG): “And when you assume the posture of prayer, remember that it’s not all asking. If you have anything against someone, forgive—only then will your heavenly Father be inclined to also wipe your slate clean of sins.”
4. Remember, this starts with verse 22: “Have faith in God.”
5. Love is faith’s highest aim.
6. Love develops by faith and faith develops and works by love.
7. Forgiveness is a spiritual decision of the heart.

B. Ecclesiastes 7:9—Unforgiveness Is Dangerous

1. NKJV: “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.”
 - a. *Rests in the bosom* (HEB) = settles down in the heart
 - b. MSG: “Don’t be quick to fly off the handle. Anger boomerangs. You can spot a fool by the lumps on his head.”
2. Unforgiveness is an enemy to our faith that causes detrimental results.
3. It contaminates, confuses, and pollutes our spirit, soul and body.
4. “Unforgiveness stops faith from working, hinders your prayer life, limits blessing, stops spiritual growth, opens the door to the devil and causes sickness, disease, and even premature death. Unforgiveness is a killer.” —Mark Hankins
5. “I would never allow the least bit of animosity, wrong feelings or ill will toward anyone for a moment. I would not let it touch me for one second. I would run from it like running from a rattlesnake. Why? Because I knew the dangerous effect it would have on my life.” —Kenneth E. Hagin
6. AMPC: “Do not be quick in spirit to be angry or vexed, for anger and vexation lodge in the bosom of fools.”
7. Stories of how anger literally rests in the bosom
 - Over the years I’ve worked with many people trying to get healing to them. Many have received.





- But there are three that stand out to me that did not receive. They all had two things in common:
 - a. They were very angry and bitter with a spouse.
 - b. They all had cancer in what the Bible calls their “bosom.”
- The man had lung cancer that spread very quickly to his whole body. The two women had breast cancer.
- At first the man denied he was bitter. Later he admitted it, but it was too late. But he met Jesus in a good condition. The man died peacefully.
- The two women were both very angry. One even turned on me in her anger. Both died in horrific pain.

C. From a Magazine Article Titled “A Forgiving Heart”

Does your blood boil every time you see the next-door neighbor who chopped down a magnificent oak tree that shaded your deck for years?

You may want to let it go.

A growing body of evidence suggests that forgiving others may be good for your own heart.

A study at the University of Tennessee shows that forgiveness can lower blood pressure and heart rate. “Holding a grudge is hard work. It places a demand on the heart” says the lead investigator. “Choosing to forgive the offender reduces anger, depression and anxiety—all of which affect cardiovascular health.”

Another study of couples with troubled marriages found higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol in those who said they could not forgive their spouses.

- If the Forgiver lives in you, you can forgive.
- Whatever the Lord tells you to do, you can do.
- God cannot do for you what He commands you to do.

D. The Forgiveness/Health Connection

A woman came to Kenneth Hagin with a question.

Her family faithfully attended church for 25 years and were very involved. They were sick most of the time. And, some of the family members were dying prematurely.

Her husband’s family marginally attended church on and off for 25 years. However, they never failed to receive their healing and were blessed.

She asked Brother Hagin why.

He looked at the factors. He considered the long-term attendance and knew that people got results by being doers of the Word. Without knowing her in-laws, he identified three outstanding characteristics. First, they were quick to repent. Second, they were quick to forgive. Third, they were quick to receive.

The woman confirmed this to be true.



She also confirmed this about her family: They were slow to repent—if at all. They would hold a grudge until the very end, and they had a hard time believing the Word.

E. Having Trouble Forgiving?

1. Feed on scriptures that speak of God's love.
2. Say them out loud to yourself, about yourself.
3. Listen to messages on love.

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DAY 4—How to Forgive Like God

A. Ephesians 4:32—We Forgive EVEN AS the Lord Forgives Us

1. To forgive is a command. Obedience brings rewards.
2. We can forgive in the same way God forgives us because He has imparted His nature to us.
3. Ephesians 4:31-32 (NKJV): "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **EVEN AS** God in Christ forgave you."
4. Luke 6:35-36 (NKJV): "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, **JUST AS** your Father also is merciful."
 - a. "Sons" speaks of maturity. God considers unforgiveness to be childish.
5. Colossians 3:12-13 (NKJV): "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; **EVEN AS** Christ forgave you, so you also must do."
 - Notice we are to "put on."
 - How? By faith. You may feel like a "put on" or a fake. But when you do it in obedience, by faith, it is very real. Your feelings will catch up.
 - Consider the episode when Jesus wrote in the dirt (John 8:1-11).
6. Verse 13 (NIV-84): "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive **AS THE LORD** forgave you."
7. Matthew 6:12 (AMPC) "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven (left, remitted, and let go of the debts, and have given up resentment against) our debtors."

B. Isaiah 43:25—How Does the Lord Forgive?

1. AMPC: "I, even I, am He Who blots out and cancels your transgressions, for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."
 - a. *Blot out* (HEB) = wipe out, eradicate, cancel, erase
 - b. CEV: "I wipe away your sins because of who I am. And so, I will forget the wrongs you have done."
 - c. GNT: "I will not hold your sins against you."
2. Isaiah 38:17 (BBE): "You have put all my sins out of your memory."
 - a. MSG: "But my sins you let go of, threw them over your shoulder—good riddance!"
 - b. NKJV: "You have cast all my sins behind your back."
3. Micah 7:18-19 (NIV): "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to



show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”

C. We Forgive Like God

1. We blot out and cancel the transgression—if it is cancelled, what does that look like?
2. We do not remember the offense.
3. We forget the wrong they have done.
4. We don't hold their sins against them.
5. We wipe it out, eradicate it, cancel it, and erase it.
6. We put the sin out of our memory.
7. We throw them over our shoulder—good riddance!
8. It's important to note that we also know people by their fruit (Matthew 7:20).

D. Mark 11:22-26—In the Light of Forgiveness

1. Isaiah 38:17 (NKJV): “For you have CAST all my sins behind your back.”
2. Micah 7:19 (NIV): You “hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”
3. Mark 11:22-26 is about forgiving others!!
4. Verses 22-26 (PGT): So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to THIS MOUNTAIN OF UNFORGIVENESS, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, when you forgive when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”
5. We forgive as an act of faith—not by how we feel.
6. Some things take a developed faith because they are difficult.
7. Go back to your messages on faith. Never let them get too far from you.
8. As you grow in your faith in Him, you'll walk in a place of faith with consistency.

Notes



God's Love in Me

“The Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5).

Faith Works by Love (Galatians 5:6).

I Corinthians 13:4-8, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*

- 4 Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.
- 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].
- 6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.
- 7 Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].
- 8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

Confession

The love of God is in my heart by the Holy Ghost therefore...

I endure long and am patient and kind.

I am never envious nor boil over with jealousy.

I am not boastful or vainglorious.

I do not display myself haughtily.

I am not conceited, arrogant nor inflated with pride.

I am not rude, unmannerly and I do not act unbecomingly.

I do not insist on my own rights or my own way,

for I am not self-seeking.

I am not touchy or fretful or resentful.

I take no account of the evil done to me.

I pay no attention to a suffered wrong.

I do not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness,

but I rejoice when right and truth prevail.

I bear up under anything and everything that comes.

I am ever ready to believe the best of every person.

My hopes are fadeless under all circumstances,

and I endure everything without weakening.

I never fail because God's love in me never fades out or comes to an end.





I Corinthians 13:4-8 Footnotes From *The Spirit-Filled Life Bible*

⁴ Love suffers long, having patience with imperfect people. Love is kind, active in doing good. Love does not envy; since it is nonpossessive and noncompetitive, it actually wants other people to get ahead. Hence it does not parade itself.

Love has a self-effacing quality; it is not ostentatious.

Love is not puffed up, treating others arrogantly; it does not behave rudely, but displays good manners and courtesy.

Love does not seek its own, insisting on its own rights and demanding precedence; rather, it is unselfish.

Love is not provoked; it is not irritable or touchy, rough or hostile, but is graceful under pressure.

⁵ Love thinks no evil; it does not keep an account of wrongs done to it; instead, it erases resentments.

⁶ Love does not rejoice in iniquity, finding satisfaction in the shortcomings of others and spreading an evil report, rather, it rejoices in the truth, aggressively advertising the good.

⁷ Love bears all things, defending and holding other people up.

Love believes the best about others, credits (people) them with good intentions, and is not suspicious. Love hopes all things, never giving up on people, but affirming their future.

⁸ Love endures all things, persevering and remaining loyal to the end.

Confession

The love of God is in my heart by the Holy Ghost therefore...

I suffer long and am patient with imperfect people.

I am kind and active in doing good.

I do not envy because I am non-possessive and noncompetitive.

I actually want other people to get ahead.

I do not parade myself. I am not ostentatious.

I am not puffed up, treating others arrogantly; I do not behave rudely,
but I display good manners and act courteously.

I do not seek my own, insisting on my own rights; rather, I am unselfish.

I am not provoked; I am not irritable, touchy, or hostile,
but I am graceful under pressure.

I think no evil; I do not keep an account of wrongs done to me;
instead, I let go of all resentment.

I do not rejoice in injustice, nor do I find satisfaction in the shortcomings of others.
I do not spread an evil report.

Rather, I rejoice in the truth and assertively promote what is good.

I bear all things, defending and holding other people up.

I believe the best about others, crediting people with good intentions,
and I am not suspicious.

I always have hope in all things. I never give up on people, but I affirm their future.

I endure all things, persevering and remaining loyal to the end.



The Life of Forgiveness

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY 5—Radical Forgiveness

A. Luke 17:3-4—The Radical Kind of Forgiveness

1. We are partakers of God's divine nature, and that nature is love.
2. "The radical kind of forgiveness that God extends to us is the same kind of radical forgiveness He expects us to extend to others." —Mark Hankins
3. "Self-evaluation in the presence of faith is a good thing, but apart from faith, it brings condemnation and that is demonic." —Kenneth Copeland
4. AMPC: "Pay attention and always be on your guard [looking out for one another]. If your brother sins (misses the mark), solemnly tell him so and reprove him, and if he repents (feels sorry for having sinned), forgive him."
 - a. Don't ignore it. Be honest and straight with him, not accusatory. Get help working on things.
 - b. If he repents you can move forward. And you may need to repent as well. You aren't perfect. We often judge others by their words and actions, but judge ourselves by our presumed good intentions.
 - c. But what if he doesn't repent?
 - i. Luke 6:27-28 (NLT) "...love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you."
 - ii. You must release all malice and pray for that person.
 - iii. Their lack of repentance doesn't permit you to hold on to bitterness.
 - iv. You have to let go and release the situation to the Lord.
 - v. Most things are not worth allowing it to weigh into a relationship.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 13:5 (AMPC) Love "takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]."
 - e. It's true that some unrepented of wrongs prevent a whole relationship from moving forward. But as for you, you can't hold on to the offense.
 - f. The vast majority of issues aren't worth allowing a point of difference to end a relationship.
 - g. I know one couple that grew into bitter hatred for each other because he frequently was thoughtless and drank the last of the orange juice.
5. "And even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and turns to you seven times and says, I repent [I am sorry], you must forgive him (give up resentment and consider the offense as recalled and annulled)."
 - a. Philippians 4:13 (NKJV): "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
6. Matthew 18:21-22 (AMPC): "Then Peter came up to Him and said, Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me and I forgive him and let it go? [As many as] up to seven times? Jesus answered him, I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven!"



7. Psalms 103:2-3 (AMPC): "Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul, and forget not [one of] all His benefits—Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities."
8. God has radically forgiven and forgotten our sins—and He expects us to do the same.

B. Job 42:7-13 (NLT)—Job's Radical Forgiveness

1. Verse 7: "After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: 'I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has.'"
2. Verse 8: "So take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has."
3. Verse 9: "So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite did as the LORD commanded them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer."
4. Verse 10: "When Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes. In fact, the LORD gave him twice as much as before!"
5. Verse 11: "Then all his brothers, sisters, and former friends came and feasted with him in his home. And they consoled him and comforted him because of all the trials the LORD had brought against him. And each of them brought him a gift of money and a gold ring."
6. Verse 12: "So the LORD blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys."
7. Verse 13: "He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters."

C. Genesis 50:15-21—Joseph's Radical Forgiveness

1. His brothers sold him into slavery.
2. He was falsely imprisoned by Potiphar.
3. He was forgotten by the chief butler—whom he helped.
4. How could you blame him for being bitter and resentful?
5. Verses 15-21 (NKJV): "When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, 'Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.' So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, 'Before your father died he commanded, saying, "Thus you shall say to Joseph: 'I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, 'Behold, we are your servants.' Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.' And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."



D. Luke 23:32-34—Jesus' Radical Forgiveness

1. NIV: "Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots."
2. This was the ultimate act of forgiveness.
3. Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV): "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."
4. Jesus, hanging on the cross, forgave those surrounding Him.
5. Because of Him, we can forgive those surrounding us as well.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.