

# THE TEACHING MINISTRY OF PASTOR JIMMY MILLER REAL LIFE CHURCH



Three prisoners were about to die

2. Revolutionaries

1. Prophet

The mobs natural love for the gruesome drew them to the scene and made them part of the show as they mocked, sneered and screamed at the man in the middle.

Interestingly: the 2 were considered heroes of the people, the 1 an enemy of the people

The 2 had murdered many - the 1 had healed many

The 2 had committed many crimes - the 1 had done nothing but good.

As He hung there the first thing He did was to pray.

But that is not uncommon / everyone prays at the end.

Even atheist call out to the very God they have spent a lifetime denying.  
Everyone prays

But they all pray for themselves. Not Jesus His prayer was for the very ones who had betrayed, brutalized and condemned Him.

He prayed for those who were sneering and mocking Him even as He prayed

He was a man of His word

Luke 6:28 (TPT)

28 When someone curses you, bless that person in return. When you are mistreated and harassed by others, accept it as your mission to pray for them.

Matthew 5:38 (TPT)

38 "Your ancestors have also been taught, 'Take an eye in exchange for an eye and a tooth in exchange for a tooth.'

Matthew 5:43-44 (TPT)

43 "Your ancestors have also been taught 'Love your neighbors and hate the one who hates you.'

44 However, I say to you, love your enemy, bless the one who curses you, do something wonderful for the one who hates you, and respond to the very ones who persecute you by praying for them.

Jesus actually practiced what He preached

He did not pray for Himself, His friends or His family - He prayed for His enemies

Luke 23:34 (NASB)

34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Here hangs the Master. Betrayed, beaten, abused, humiliated. Hanging naked before all.

Everything about this scene was unjust.

The false charges, the kangaroo court and the punishment all unfair.

And yet our Master speaks a nearly unbelievable sentence.

"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Today I want us to look at this sentence.

**Father:** Jesus doesn't offer his own forgiveness that, according to scholars was a done deal.

Jesus was not offended, held no grudges and felt no hatred.

He was speaking to the ONE who had said, "This is MY Beloved Son...."

Forgive them for what they do to Your Son.

**Forgive** - ἀφίημι / af-ee'-ay-mee

apo' - Separate / let go

*hiēmi* -to send away / to leave / not to discuss now / to go away leaving something behind

Forgiveness is an essential NT doctrine, scholars say that forgiveness (personal) was not a doctrine of the OT - we have examples of it, but according to scholars it was not a tenant of faith.

Not till Jesus comes along does forgiveness take the stage

No wonder of all the things that Jesus taught forgiveness was the one that tripped them up the most.

**Matthew 18:15 (TPT)**

15 "If your fellow believer sins against you, you must go to that one privately and attempt to resolve the matter. **If he responds**, your relationship is restored.

Psychologist have written that there are 3 levels of forgiveness. Each depends on the level of restoration

1. Detached forgiveness
2. Limited forgiveness and
3. Full forgiveness.

But the Bible reveals only 1 type of forgiveness and that is TOTAL! Which doesn't depend at all on the response.

Jesus did not say, "Father, if they repent of that which they now do forgive them...."

His forgiveness was not founded on their response but found its foundation in His Great Love.

Jesus was wishing upon those who crucified Him God's very best

You will know that forgiveness has begun when you recall those who hurt you and feel the power to wish them well.

Matthew 18:21-35 (TPT)

21 Later Peter approached Jesus and said, "How many times do I have to forgive my fellow believer who keeps offending me? Seven times?"

**The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the mark of the strong.**

22 Jesus answered, "Not seven times, Peter, but seventy times seven times!

23 The lessons of forgiveness in heaven's kingdom realm can be illustrated like this: "There once was a king who had servants who had borrowed money from the royal treasury. He decided to settle accounts with each of them.

24 As he began the process, it came to his attention that one of his servants owed him **one billion dollars**. So he summoned the servant before him and said to him, 'Pay me what you owe me.'

25 When his servant was unable to repay his debt, the king ordered that he be sold as a slave along with his wife and children and every possession they owned as payment toward his debt.

26 The servant threw himself facedown at his master's feet and begged for mercy. 'Please be patient with me. Just give me more time and I will repay you all that I owe.'

27 Upon hearing his pleas, the king had compassion on his servant, and released him, and **forgave his entire debt**.

28 "No sooner had the servant left when he met one of his fellow servants, who owed him **twenty thousand dollars**. He seized him by the throat and began to choke him, saying, 'You'd better pay me right now everything you owe me!'

29 His fellow servant threw himself facedown at his feet and begged, 'Please be patient with me. If you'll just give me time, I will repay you all that is owed.'

30 But the one who had his debt forgiven stubbornly refused to forgive what was owed him. He had his fellow servant thrown into prison and demanded he remain there until he repaid the debt in full.

31 "When his associates saw what was going on, they were outraged and went to the king and told him the whole story.

32 The king said to him, 'You scoundrel! Is this the way you respond to my mercy? Because you begged me, I forgave you the massive debt that you owed me.

33 Why didn't you show the same mercy to your fellow servant that I showed to you?'

34 In a fury of anger, the king turned him over to the prison guards to be tortured until all his debt was repaid.

35 In this same way, my heavenly Father will deal with any of you if you do not release forgiveness from your heart toward your fellow believer."

The person who gains the most from forgiving is the one who offers the forgiveness.

To hold onto the offense is to become imprisoned and tortured.

Your pain maybe justified but is your prison time worth it?

Forgiveness is the pathway to freedom

There is no future, Kingdom sized, future if we fail to forgive.

We cannot embrace God's goodness if we are busy clinging to past wounds and nursing old grudges.

R.T.Kendall served as the pastor of the great Westminster Chapel in London, England and he had secretly been bitter for years.

A crime had been committed against him by one of his own church members - it hurt him so bad he ceased being an effective minister.

He was a prisoner of the pain and his future was bleak.

He had been challenged to forgive them he didn't want to, but knew he needed to so he prayed empty meaningless words.

Father, forgive them....

After a few moments the Holy Spirit spoke to him, "Do you know what you are asking Me to do?"

He thought he knew so he said, "Yes"

The HS continued, "Are you now asking Me to set them free as if they had done nothing wrong?"

He had to think about this....then he remembered the horrible things he had done and how God had forgiven him so he said, "Yes, forgive them."

"Do you mean that I should bless them and prosper them?"

He paused, he didn't want them blessed he wanted them punished. They did wrong!

The Holy Spirit spoke again, "R.T. how about if I bless and forgive you in proportion to how you want Me to forgive and bless them?"

**Ephesians 4:30-32 (NLT)**

**30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.**

**31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.**

**32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**

What matters in our lives than the Holy Spirit dwelling in us ungrieved. Able to be completely Himself.

Then He, the Holy Spirit is able to function, to flow, to promote and to equip us without reservation or hindrance.

I will pick this up next week.

As we close go back a few verses.

Ephesians 4:17-27 (NASB)

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, **that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk**, in the futility of their mind,

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, **because of the hardness of their heart;**

Note: unforgiveness will make us hard hearted towards one another. It will result in us treating people bad who didn't even do anything.

**Ex: LightHouse church in Orlando - punishing those who remained because of those who left.**

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT)

26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

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Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

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