

**Sunday, August 27, 2023**  
**Loving God's Children Like Jesus Did**  
**Forgiving Our Brethren**

**The Holy Spirit in Us**

**The Spirit Births Us and Nurtures Us**

**Jesus taught** that the Holy Spirit restores God's "likeness" and "image" in a person through a Spirit caused birthing of God event (John 3:2-8; Mat. 18:1-5; Gen. 1:26-27) and then nurtures children of God with "truth" taught by Jesus (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15) so there is spiritual growth. **Jesus taught** the primary obstacles to the Spirit's Work in Us. (Mat. 13:3-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15). **Jesus taught** that Spirit-informed decision making requires minimizing the influence of our appetites, feelings and emotions. (Mat. 26:41; Mark 14:38; 16:24-25; Luke 9:23; John 6:63)

**Jesus and the Spirit Help Us Learn- 2 Primary Teachings**

**1. How to Relate to God as a Father**

**Mat 6:5-15:** Our life priorities discussed with God in prayer.  
All priorities represented in Jesus life on earth.

**2. How to Love the Brethren as Jesus Loved them.**

Jesus provided forgiveness by eliminating the debt we owe.  
Jesus commanded us to Forgive: Matthew 18:21-35

**Forgiveness is Different than Reconciliation.**

**1. Forgiveness is a Command of Jesus with serious implications.**

Matthew 18:21-32

Forgiveness is letting go of a person's debt to us, but it does not restore trust or a relationship.

Jim Friesen' Counselling Advice

- It is not a feeling.
- It is not reconciliation.
- It is the decision not to retaliate.

You may feel incomplete and awful about a person who hurt you, but that is a healing issue. If you want to retaliate, then it's a forgiveness issue.

**2. Refusing to forgive a brother in Christ threatens the forgiveness we will receive from God.**

**Matthew 18:32-36**      **Huge implications in forgiveness**

- God does not forgive everyone
- We can choose non-retaliation for the sake of love without forgetting or restoring a relationship.
- We can forgive and continue to feel the pain of hurt caused.

**Luke 23:34** "But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

**3. Forgiving is easier if we trust that God knows the heart of people and will manage the consequences of evil.**

**Luke 13:6-9**

- We need to see every person's life as involving opportunity to grow in goodness. Judging now ignores what God can do.
- We can forgive and trust God for judgment.

**Forgiveness Can Lead to Reconciliation**

**1. The more we realize how much we have done that needs forgiveness, the more forgiving we should become.**

**2. Forgiveness as "non-retaliation" can free us to deal honestly with our pain and willingness to trust God.**

**3. Our forgiveness of a person can provide them a meaningful representation of what Jesus is doing in us.**

Jesus' teachings define an otherworldly type of family: Mat. 12:46-50; 10:37; 19:21; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21.

Jesus' teachings inform Jesus' purpose in life: John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

## How Much did Jesus Love the Brethren?

### 1. Jesus taught that “forgiveness” was the primary need of every person in the world.

Matthew 6:12-15 Jesus taught in needs to be a prayer priority.

Matthew 9:1-8 Provision of forgiveness: Our greatest need.

### 2. Jesus was committed to dying to provide for our forgiveness.

Matthew 26:26-29 His blood shed “on behalf of many”

John 15:12-13 “laying down his life for his friends”

### 3. Jesus taught us that forgiveness was essential in the life of God's family.

Matthew 18:15-22

- If our brother sins... “1 on 1... 2-3 on 1... family involvement.
- It is a “Family of God” priority”
- Forgiveness has no limit, but it is limited by Jesus to ownership.

## Prioritizing a “Forgiving Heart”

- **Forgiving people who take no ownership for the hurt they cause is a life challenge.**
- **Jesus' offered forgiveness for a multitude of things we have done without our ownership of all our stuff.**
- **Forgiveness is a necessity in the family of God.**

## Three Points from Jim Friesen

1. **It is not a feeling.**
2. **It is not reconciliation.**

### 3. **It is the decision not to retaliate.**

**You may feel incomplete and awful about a person who hurt you, but that is a healing issue. If you want to retaliate, then it's a forgiveness issue.**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how many times shall my brother sin against me and I *still* forgive him? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> And when he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his master commanded that he be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And the master of that slave felt compassion, and he released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe!’ <sup>29</sup> So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he was unwilling, and went and threw him in prison until he would pay back what was owed. <sup>31</sup> So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their master all that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then summoning him, his master said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And his master, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he would repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

In his resourceful book entitled “HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK, 1965, page 442”, Dr. Henry H. Halley (author, minister, and Bible lecturer) wrote the following in relation to the Dollar equivalent of a talent and a dinarii (pence or shilling), and the message behind the verses:

“A talent was about \$1000. A pence or shilling was about 17 cents. The man was forgiven \$10,000,000, but was unwilling to forgive \$17.

That is Jesus' comparison of our own sins against God to those sinned against us. Notice Jesus' statement that there is no hope of forgiveness unless we forgive."

Based on footnotes from the New Living Translation Bible, 10,000 talents is roughly 375 tons of silver. Silver today is about \$20.69/troy ounce. With about 29,166 troy ounces in a ton, **ten thousand talents would be around \$226,291,702.50.**

A denarii is considered a days wage in the resources I've come across be them footnotes or Bible dictionaries. No hard and fast silver or gold amounts. So you could see it as **a 100 days worth of work.**