

Forgiving and Forgetting

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26
Jeremiah 31:34

Matthew 5:21-26 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Introduction

There can be no genuine Christianity without a spirit of forgiveness toward those who have offended us and a willingness to forget offenses against us.

I. Gifts we offer at the altar

Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophecy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth on teaching; Or he that

exhorteth on exhortation: he that giveth, let him give with simplicity: he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

- A. Our finances
- B. Our talents
- C. Our ministry

II. The obstacle to our giving

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

- A. Hurt feelings
- B. Imagined wrong
- C. Petty jealousy
- D. Actual offense

III. The action that frees us to give

Matthew 5:24 Leave thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

- A. Ask for forgiveness
- B. Make right the wrong