



**"Helping people experience the Hope  
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus".**

Oscar Chavez - Lead Pastor - 8/6/23  
Series: A Living Lesson on Forgiveness. Pt.1

**God is a God of forgiveness.**

Exodus 34:6

*"Then the Lord passed by in front of Him and proclaimed" – this is the Lord speaking of Himself – "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth, who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin."*

Proverbs 19:11, "It is a man's glory to overlook a transgression,"

Matthew 6:12 "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"

## **1. The Basic Principle of forgiveness: God's forgiveness of us is based on our forgiveness of others.**

James 2:13

*"There will be judgment without mercy for those who have not been merciful themselves."*

**Jesus:**

Matthew 5:7. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

Matthew 6:12

*"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" 14-15 "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."*

**Paul:**

Ephesians 4:32. "Be kind to one another, tender hearted" – "forgiving each other just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

Colossians chapter 3:13, "We are to be bearing with one another and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

## **"God is a forgiving God and you are to be forgiving people because God has forgiven you".**

Matthew 5:21-25

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that men were told long ago, 'You must not kill another person. If someone does kill, he will be guilty and will be punished for his wrong-doing.'

<sup>22</sup> But I tell you that:

whoever is angry with his brother will be guilty and have to suffer for his wrong-doing. –

Whoever says to his brother, 'You have no brains,' will have to stand in front of the court.

Whoever says, 'You fool,' will be sent to the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup> If you take your gift to the altar and remember your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift on the altar. Go and make right what is wrong between you and him. Then come back and give your gift.

## **Parables/ Stories on Forgiveness: Matthew 18**

<sup>21</sup> "If somebody sins against me" and I forgive him, how many times do I do that? Seven? I do not say to you up to seven times but up to seventy times seven."

<sup>23</sup> "The Kingdom of Heaven then may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. Since he didn't have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold along with his wife and children and all that he had and repayment to be made.

<sup>26</sup> "The servant falling on his face in front of the king. He said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you all the money.' <sup>27</sup> "The Lord of that servant felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt." <sup>28</sup> "The servant went out, he found his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii" – "He took hold of his neck, began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'" <sup>29</sup> "The other servant got down at his feet and said, 'Have patience 'Give me time, and I will pay you all the money.'"

<sup>30</sup> But he would not. He had him put in prison until he could pay the money. <sup>31</sup> "When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the king called for the first one. He said, 'You bad servant! I forgave you. I said that you would not have to pay back any of the money you owed me because you asked me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had pity on the other servant, even as I had pity on you?'

<sup>34</sup> The king was very angry. He handed him over to men who would beat and hurt him until he paid all the money he owed. <sup>35</sup> So will My Father in heaven do to you, if each one of you does not forgive his brother from his heart."

Now, the priority of forgiveness is not only given in Scripture in principle, it's not only given in Scripture in parable, but it is given in Scripture in personal terms.

## **Book of Philemon. Why Philemon?**

Because Philemon had a situation where he was to forgive someone who had done him wrong!!!

His name was **Onesimus**.

## **Philemon**

**1** This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to: Philemon, our beloved co-worker, **2** and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house.

**3** May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. **4** I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, **5** because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people.

*6 And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.*

*7 Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.*

*Paul's Appeal for Onesimus*

*8 That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. 9 But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.*

*10 I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. 11 Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. 12 I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.*

*13 I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf.*

*14 But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced. 15 It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. 16 He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord. 17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL! 20 Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.*

*21 I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more!*

*22 One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon.*

*Paul's Final Greetings*

*23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. 24 So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.*

*25 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Here are a few things we learned in this first week on our serious on Forgiveness.*

### **Here are a few things we learned this first week in our series on Forgiveness.**

- 1. Jesus was clear "God is a forgiven God and you are to be forgiving people because God has forgiving you".**
  - a. A principle about forgiveness, God has forgiven you, so you should forgive.
  - b. The other one is God won't forgive you if you don't forgive.
- 2. If you don't forgive, God will not accept your worship.**
- 3. Forgiveness should be a natural response of a child of God, it can't and should not be forced on someone.**
- 4. Forgiveness adds value to a person.**
- 5. Forgiveness is available to all because Jesus paid the tab.**
- 6. Forgiveness brings transformation in a relationship. It changes the heart.**

## **Philemon**

Intro. V.1-3

The spiritual character of one who forgives. vv.4-7

The spiritual action of the one who forgives. vv.8-18

The spiritual motivation of the one who forgives. vv. 19-25

**SUNDAYS IN AUGUST**

# **PHILEMON**

**A LIVING LESSON ON FORGIVENESS**



**HOPE CITY  
CHURCH**



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CHURCH



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- ***“Then the Lord passed by in front of Him and proclaimed” – this is the Lord speaking of Himself – “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth, who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin.”***



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