

April 15, 2018

Victory Over A Tormenting Spirit-Restoring Relationships

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Tormenting spirits, broken relationships and unlimited forgiveness, what are these things and how do we overcome them? In looking and talking with people all around we see that many are going through some type of these problems. There are procedures and steps to be taken in order to set people free. The words that are being spoken, the fiery darts that the enemy is firing at them causes most to feel like there is no way out of the circumstances that they find themselves in, but the word declares that through Jesus and the work that was done by Him, they can be set free and live normal productive lives.

All the scriptures that we will be reading today are specifically for the born again christian people. Jesus used a little child as an example as to how we were to handle some situations, be like a little child, be humble, open and be yourself. If these steps are followed it shuts down negative thoughts or strongholds that begin to arise causing us to draw an opinion about those involved. After hearing both sides, we realize that we cannot control people lives, they are going to do whatever they want to do, regardless if it is right or wrong, we cannot judge.

Most people want to serve the Lord and do what He wants them to do, but the enemy is always trying to sow discord, that is his main objective to steal, kill and destroy, other people are not our enemies, though it may seem like they are at times.

This scripture also tells of how Jesus instructed the church to deal with those who were having problems with someone else, the steps to be taken to handle the offense and what should be done. There are many things in our lives that cause offenses and the correct way to handle the situation is not to go talking to anyone and everyone about the problem, but go to the one who is causing the problem. There are specific steps to be taken in order to handle the situation, this is a key in order to restore the relationship. Don't take someone with you that is a close friend, judgment may have already been determined, get someone that is not closely related to the offense.

Matt 18:15-17 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." KJV

Pro 18:17 "The first to speak in court sounds right— until the cross-examination begins." NLT

There are usually more than one side to a story, believers have to be careful not to be drawn up in what they may be hearing, correct or not.

1 Cor 12: 12 "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." KJV

Jesus is not telling us to literally cut off a foot or hand, because each member of the body of Christ has a function, He is talking about relationships and sometimes we may have to cut off a relationship with someone if it is causing problems with our walk with the Lord.

Matt 18:17 "And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

An example was given of a pastor who had to make the decision to take this step with a couple in his church that were causing problems, he had followed the steps prior to this in order to restore them, but they refused so he publicly called them out and asked them to leave which they did. He explained to the congregation how they had been working behind the scenes, poisoning people with their words, causing dissension and they refused to make correction.

Matt 18:21-22 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." KJV

Jesus is teaching about forgiveness, telling Peter that under the old covenant or law, after forgiving 490 times it was not necessary to forgive anymore, but under the new covenant with grace and mercy, unconditional forgiveness is for an unlimited amount of time and we will be learning to walk in a new life style of forgiveness. As we are being taught and learning to live this life style it can be challenging, but as we

begin, it will become easier and easier.

In the old covenant under works in order to be forgiven it was necessary to do something, this is not true in the new covenant. We must put on forgiveness, walk in forgiveness, forgive like God forgives. Unforgiveness in our lives puts limitations on us but God takes us like we are and as we begin to walk, grow and renew our mind, we begin to work things out of the soulish part of us. Some are taught that when they get born again, if they have ought in their hearts, things that have not been forgiven, they will not make it to heaven. We are saved by grace and not by works, but unforgiveness will put limitations on us after we are born again and it brings heartache.

Titus 3:3 "For we also were once thoughtless and senseless, obstinate and disobedient, deluded and misled; [we too were once] slaves to all sorts of cravings and pleasures, **wasting our days in malice and jealousy and envy, hateful (hated, detestable) and hating one another.**" AMP

Wasted days or time, the result of being like the things listed in the above scripture and for us to live on that kind of level in the kingdom of God should not be what we are desiring. How do we deal and be a bestower of forgiveness and not harbor unforgiveness because it is wasted days in the kingdom? We have seen this unforgiveness with some believers, causing splits in churches and in families.

Matt 18:23-34 " Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." KJV

v. 23 Jesus is telling us how the kingdom of God works, we are in the kingdom by the new birth

and it has kingdom principles, there are new boundaries to work by

v.24 the king is taking into account what is happening in the kingdom looking at all situations, forgiveness of others, there was no way that the man could pay. God has forgiven us more than we could ever pay.

v.25 all that he had was to be sold, everything trying to get some kind of payment

v.26 he ask for patience that he would pay all that was owed

v.27 the lord of the servant was moved with compassion, loosed him and forgave the debt, was given another chance in life, let him keep it all

v.28 found someone who owed a smaller amount to him, but he chose not to forgive, nothing compared to what was forgiven him,

v.29 this man ask for patience, he would pay all

v.30 but he would not forgive the debt, but cast him into prison

v.31 the others went and told the lord what had been done

v.32 the lord called him back, reminding him what had been forgiven because he had asked unforgiveness if not something to be sought after,

v.33 the lord reminded him of the pity that had been shown to him, we have been given so much that we need to show compassion to others

v.34. was given to a tormenting spirit and until he learned to forgive he would be tormented.

The man was to be tormented until he learned to pay the debt of forgiveness. We have to forgive others regardless of what they may have done to us. Unforgiveness puts limitations on us, torment sets in when a believer who is trying to do right, but starts harboring unforgiveness toward others, it will take over. Torment means to have pain, have loss or vexation, causes oppression, depression etc. It just wasn't unforgiveness, it has now turned into bitterness and that root begins to start producing all kinds of bad fruit. We have to forgive, torment will become a lifestyle if we are not quick to walk in love, repent and quick to forgive.

There are things that happen in unforgiveness that have to be addressed. We cannot be taking other peoples offenses, even with a best friend or family member, borrowed offenses because of unforgiveness over the longhaul will cause us to be attack by those same demonic spirits that are attached to our acquaintances. We start

fighting the same spirits that they are fighting, it is hard to resist the devil because we have bound ourselves over to the fruit of unforgiveness and brought it into our lives, but if we loose ourselves from those spirits that are tormenting that individual and loose ourselves in the presence of God and get under the umbrella where is the blessings are.

When we make decisions not to forgive we can expect these kinds of things to happen over the longhaul. If we don't forgive everything then we will eventually find ourselves doing or saying the same thing that we will not forgive others for. Learning to walk in forgiveness will bring the victory that we all desire.

Peter is speaking to the believers how living a lifestyle will attract unbelievers, having compassion for everyone, having forgiveness, blessing everyone with welfare, happiness and protection for this is our calling in order to inherit a blessing from God. We sow the seed by blessing someone else, then God begins to bless us. We have a responsibility but we are unable to do what these verses tells us if we have unforgiveness and bitterness in our lives.

1 Peter 3:8-11 "Finally, all [of you] should be of one and the same mind (united in spirit), sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate and courteous (tenderhearted and humble). 9 Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God]—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection]. 10 For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days [good—whether apparent or not] keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile (treachery, deceit). 11 Let him turn away from wickedness and shun it, and let him do right. Let him search for peace (harmony; undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts) and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]" AMP

We must learn how to patiently bear suffering when we are doing right, that is what Jesus did for us. It is our responsibility that we follow His footsteps. The benefits of staying in forgiveness out number the hardships caused by being in unforgiveness.

1 Peter 2:20-23 "[After all] what [a]kind of glory [is there in it] if, when you do wrong and are punished for it, you take it patiently? But if you bear patiently with suffering [which results] when you do right and that is undeserved, it is acceptable and pleasing to God. 21 For even to this were you called [it is inseparable from your vocation]. For Christ also suffered for you, leaving you [His

personal] example, so that you should follow in His footsteps. 22 He was guilty of no sin, neither was deceit (guile) ever found on His lips. 23 When He was reviled and insulted, He did not revile or offer insult in return; [when] He was abused and suffered, He made no threats [of vengeance]; but he trusted [Himself and everything] to Him Who judges fairly." AMP

The things listed below are a result of unforgiveness, but verse 32 is our goal, we are to become over the longhaul, kind, tenderhearted, forgiving as we have been forgiven. God forgives based on the finished works of Jesus and we have to do the same. We do not forgive first, but after salvation we must forgive as we are forgiven. We are bestowers of forgiveness.

Eph 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for **Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**" KJV

God see us through what Jesus did for us. We must forgive because Jesus paid the price for us, if we don't forgive we will never have the fulness of God in our lives.

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV