

5 August 2018

Love Like You Have Never Been Hurt (Stop keeping score, and start losing count)

Matt: 18:21-22 (NKJV)

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. $70 \times 7 = 490$ times

One of the most powerful lessons Jesus taught was on forgiveness. (Verse 23-35) He, Jesus, shared the story because Peter came to Him and tried to justify hanging onto unforgiveness.

Mark 11:25-26; Luke 17:3-5

Some of us create mental spreadsheets for each person who has hurt us, and we keep a tally of marks against them.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Philippians 3:7-14)

No matter how many times we have been hurt, the Bible is clear on one thing:

We must forgive

If you do not **release forgiveness**, you will not **receive forgiveness** - Mark 11:26

Forgiveness will come if you do not give up - Matthew 7:7-8

Whenever you release forgiveness, you release the Power of the Spirit of God and the Power of Healing - James 5:13 -15.

Question: What is stopping you?

THE TREE OF: ANGER TO GOD, UNFORGIVENESS AND BITTERNESS

In the diagram on the opposite page you will find some ugly fruit on a bad tree. These are the outward, visible signs of an inward condition of the heart, called Bitterness. This root must be completely destroyed if you wish to live a productive Christian life. It has two companion roots called Unforgiveness and Anger towards God. The Bible says we must forgive others in order for God to forgive us. This means that if we ask God to forgive our sins, He expects us to forgive ALL those who offended us, first.

Often the deepest and most overlooked problem is Anger towards God. Hardly anyone wants to admit that they are angry with God. Many times we blame Him for things we have left undone, and we do not like to see the consequences of our neglect so we blame God. If you leave a box of matches in a child's hand and a fire starts causing the child's death - is it God's fault? The cry: "Why did You let this happen to me?" is a sign of Anger towards God.

The most visible fruit on this evil tree are: Nicotine (cigarettes), Alcohol and Drugs. If you are praying for someone to get free of these problems, the place to start is the roots. If you prune the fruit, you will get back an abundant crop of the same bad fruit. If you kill the roots the whole tree will wither and die over a period of time and the branches and fruit will never grow again.

One of the most underestimated items on this tree is 'Memory Recall of Hurts', You will remember every tiny detail of traumatic situations as if it happened today. Pray and ask the Lord to deliver you from these memories which play such a part in keeping bitterness and hurt alive in your mind and heart.

To be set free of these terrible roots you need to forgive everyone who has ever hurt you, not just mentally, but from the heart. Ask Jesus to deliver you from the spirits of bitterness, unforgiveness and anger towards God. Put your hand on the picture of the tree of bitterness and command every part of it to loose your life. Totally uproot it in the name of Jesus. In its place plant the beautiful Tree of Life, which contains the fruit of love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faith, self-control, patience and meekness. It will be rooted in everlasting life in the Kingdom of Heaven, and will be watered by the Living Waters that flow forth from the Throne of God.

You will never be the same again if you do this from the heart, and keep short accounts of wrongs and hurts others do against you. Just give them the pure love of Jesus in return, because you have never loved until you have loved an enemy. We were enemies of God when Jesus died for us and effected reconciliation between the Father and us rebels, yet He loved us enough to send His Son to take our punishment.

The diseases which are caused by a bitter heart can all be healed by releasing those resentments. These diseases include arthritis, cancer, heart disease, sugar diabetes, anorexia, hernias, peptic ulcers, and migraines.

The Lord Jesus wishes you to be in perfect health, spiritual, mental and physical and that we should love one another. Amen.

HEART AILMENTS

