



Forgiveness

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” [Colossians 3:13](#)

A while back, I heard a story of a couple on TV. They had been married for several years. The husband was so dissatisfied with his marriage that he decided to kill his wife. He decided to hire someone to murder his wife. It so happened that the man he was going to hire as a hit man was an undercover police officer. The man was caught on tape while he was discussing his plans to murder his wife with the hit man. He was arrested on the spot and put in prison. The wife was terribly shocked when she heard that her husband would do such a thing. To everybody's surprise, she decided to forgive her husband and requested that the charges against him be dropped. She decided to live with her husband after all this. I watched as her husband shared this story on TV. Tears were flowing from his eyes. He talked about how he was transformed by the love of his wife in spite of what he had done. By the powerful force of love, the wife was able to transform and redeem her husband. If she had hated him and had him thrown into prison, she would not have had the chance to change him.

In the movie “the passion of the Christ”, I saw the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus. *Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)* [John 18:10](#). Although Jesus had the opportunity to defeat his enemy by letting him bleed, Jesus knelt down and placed the ear back into the servant's head. In spite of the fact that



the man came to arrest him and torture him, Jesus reached out and healed him. I saw the face of Malchus baffled by what had just happened. The soldier probably experienced the love and kindness flow from the one he came to arrest and hurt. Again, when Judas brought the soldiers to betray his Lord and Master Jesus, Jesus did not curse him or get mad at him. Instead he said, *"Friend, do what you came for."* [Matthew 26:50](#). I believe that this response of Jesus cut right through the heart of Judas. Later, he went to the people who had bribed him and said, *"I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood."* [Matthew 27:4](#).

Jesus said, *"But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also"* [Matthew 5:39](#). Jesus did not say this to make us look like a fool but he said this because he wanted to give us the opportunity to redeem that evil person for Christ. If we repaid evil with evil then we will end up destroying each other.

When Jesus called Zacchaeus from the sycamore tree, Jesus did not point out all the sins that Zacchaeus had committed and rebuke him. Instead he said, *"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."* While the people began to mutter, *"He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "*, Jesus went to the house of Zacchaeus not rejoice with a sinful man but to bring salvation to his house. Zacchaeus was probably moved by the love that Jesus showed a sinful man like himself. *Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."* Jesus said to him, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."* [Luke 19:5-10](#). The bible



tells us that it is God's *kindness that leads us to repentance* Romans 2:4. Zacchaeus repented not because Jesus loaded up a guilt trip on him but because Jesus showed him kindness in spite of his sinful nature. God's mercy triumphed over the judgment that was to come on Zacchaeus! James 2:13

In John 8:1-11 we read the story of the lady who was caught in the act of adultery. While the people were determined on stoning the lady according to the Law of Moses, Jesus reached out to her. He did this not to encourage her sinful nature but to save her from it.

In another story that we read in Luke 9:54-56, when Jesus and his disciples entered a Samaritan village the Samaritans did not receive them. *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."*

Mother Teresa said, "*We need lots of love to forgive, and we need lots of humility to forget.*" Sometimes it is our pride that prevents us from forgiving people of their offenses. Although we may claim that we have forgiven people of their sins, we still find it hard to forget any of it. Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God humbled himself and made himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant Philippians 2:7 to forgive us of all our sins. During the ministry of Jesus on this earth, he went about healing broken people. He knew that everyone had sinned and fallen short of God's glory. Although he was criticized by the Pharisees, Jesus spent most of his time with tax collectors, adulterers, and the outcast of the society so that no



one will be destroyed but that they may be saved through him. We should never reject anyone based on their religious background or denomination or culture but pray that they would come to know the true God and his Son Jesus Christ. *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”* [John 3:17](#). We who are followers of Jesus Christ ought to lay aside our pride and humble ourselves and forgive whatever grievances we may have against each other. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son”* [John 3:16](#). *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* [Romans 5:8](#). *We ought to forgive just as our Lord forgave us.*

We should not repay evil with evil or insult with insult but with blessing, because to this we were called so that we may inherit a blessing [1 Peter 3:9](#).

Jesus said, *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven”*. [Matthew 5:44-45](#).

[Ephesians 4:26](#) says, *“In your anger do not sin”* : *Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.*

Jesus said, *“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift”*
[Matthew 5:23-24](#)

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Love,
VICTOR