

*One Step to Freedom Chapter 3 lesson 4: Forgiveness*

*\*Forgiveness in light of the mercy of God:*

**Luke 6:36 (NKJV) <sup>36</sup> Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.**

*\* Forgiveness in the light of the promised blessings of mercy:*

**Matthew 5:7 (NKJV) “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”**

*\* Forgiveness in the light of God`s mercy towards mankind:*

**Titus 3:4-7 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5a</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, <sup>b</sup> but according to His mercy He saved us, <sup>c</sup> through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

*1.) In vs.4; How did the kindness and love of God towards man appear?*

*2.) In vs.5a; Is there any works of righteousness we can do to save ourselves?*

*3.) In vs.5b; What was God`s motivating factor in saving us?*

*4.) What did God`s mercy save us from?*

*5.) In vs 5c; What process did God use to save us?*

*6.) In vs.6; Through Whom did God pour out on us abundantly these things spoken of?*

*7.) In vs.7; What are the promises of receiving God`s mercy?*

*\* Forgiveness in the light of God`s mercy towards mankind: continued;*

**1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)** <sup>3a</sup> **Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**<sup>b</sup>Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten/*given* us again to a living**  
**hope, <sup>c</sup>through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

1.) *In vs.3b; according to God`s abundant mercy what has been given to us?*

2.) *In vs3c; how do we receive this blessing given to us by God`s abundant mercy?*

**Ephesians 2:4-7(NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> **But God, who is rich in mercy,** because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5a</sup> **even when we were dead in trespasses,** <sup>b</sup> **made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),** <sup>6</sup> **and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,** <sup>7</sup> **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

1.) *In vs5b; What did we receive from the richness of God`s mercy?*

2.) *In vs.5a; When did we receive this merciful blessing from God?*

3.) *In vs6; What else did we receive from the richness of God`s mercy?*

4.) *In vs7; What is the reason/purpose given why God gave us these merciful blessings from God?*

*\*Forgiveness remembering that through God`s mercy we are not consumed!*

**Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV)** <sup>22</sup> **Through the LORD`s mercies we are not *utterly/***  
**completely consumed, Because His compassions fail not.** <sup>23</sup> **They are new every**  
**morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**

*\*God` mercy towards the worst of sinners:*

**1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> **This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. <sup>16</sup> However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.**

*1.) In vs.15; Why does Paul claim himself the chief of sinners?*

*Reference; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10, Galatians 1:13-16*

*2.) In vs.16; What is the message Paul is trying to convey to the reader?*

*\*God`s further instructions and warnings regarding mercy:*

**Hosea 6:6 (KJV)** <sup>6</sup> **For I (God) desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.**

**Luke 1:50 (KJV)** <sup>50</sup> **And His (God`s) mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.**

**Psalms 18:25a (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup> **With the merciful You (God) will show Yourself merciful;**

**James 2:13 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> **For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. [Matthew 18:33](#), [Luke 6:37](#)**

**Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> **He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.**

**Romans 12:1 (NKJV)** **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.***

**Micah 6:8 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> **He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you, But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**

*1.) Can you think of instances in the bible where God actually instructs to show no mercy?*

*\*God`s forgiveness towards mankind:*

**Romans 3:23-25 (KJV)** <sup>23</sup> **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**  
<sup>24</sup> **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.** <sup>25</sup> **Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;**

*\*God`s forgiveness towards us personally:*

**Colossians 2:13 (KJV)** <sup>13</sup> **And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened/made alive together with Him (Jesus Christ), having forgiven you all trespasses;**

*\*God`s forgiveness towards us collectively as the body of Christ:*

**Ephesians 1:6-7 (KJV)** <sup>6</sup> **To the praise of the glory of His (God) grace, wherein He (God) hath made us accepted in the beloved (Jesus Christ);** <sup>7</sup> **In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace;**

*\*When a person receives God`s forgiveness (through believing Jesus died on the cross for their sins), God then expects and commands that person to extend this forgiveness to other people who have wronged them. Regardless of the circumstances, if we choose to live a life that pleases God, then we must learn to forgive others:*

**Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV)** <sup>14</sup> **“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.** <sup>15</sup> **But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

*1.) According to these verses, why do we need to forgive others?*

**Mark 11:25 (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup> **“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive them, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.**

*1.) What can we say will be affected if we don`t forgive someone in this verse?*

**Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)** <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God in Christ forgave you.

1.) *What is the reason given that we should forgive one another in this verse?*

**Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)** <sup>13a</sup> bearing with one another, and **forgiving one another**, if anyone has a complaint against another; <sup>b</sup> even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

1.) *In vs.13b; What is the reason given that we should forgive one another in this verse?*

*\*Setting the example of forgiveness*

**2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, <sup>11</sup> lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

1.) *What is the reason given that we should forgive one another in this verse?*

**Luke 23:34 (NKJV)** <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.

1.) *Who was Jesus asking The Father to forgive in this verse?*

*\*The summation of the matter:*

**Luke 6:37 (NKJV)** <sup>37</sup> “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

*For people whose lives have involved addiction, this principle of forgiveness is magnified in its need for practical application. Marriages are destroyed, jobs are lost, families are split apart, friends become enemies, and enemies become friends. The effects of addiction destroy personal lives; yet, through Jesus every addict can find forgiveness of their sins. The problem for so many is extending this same forgiveness to other people.*

*It is hard to forgive (and forget) those who encouraged or enabled us in addiction. It is hard to forgive those who took advantage of us when we were down and out. For some families, healing and restoration never take place because the other spouse refuses to forgive the person who destroyed the marriage and/or family through their addiction. This is the greatest challenge to every Christian: to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us.*

*\*Jesus instructs us how to perform the works of forgiveness:*

**Luke 6:27-36 (NKJV) <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. <sup>29</sup> To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. <sup>31</sup> And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. <sup>32</sup> “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. <sup>35a</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; <sup>b</sup> and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. <sup>36</sup> Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.**

*1.) In vs.27; How are we to treat our enemies and those who hate us?*

*2.) In vs.28; How are we to treat those who curse us and treat us in a spiteful way?*

*3.) In vs.29; How are we to treat those who strike us on the cheek and takes our cloak?*

4.) *In vs.30; How are we to treat those who ask something of us and of those who take things from us?*

5.) *In vs.31; How does God want us to treat others/each other*

6.) *In Vs.32; What is said about loving those who love you?*

7.) *In Vs.33; What is said about doing good to those who do good to you?*

8.) *In Vs.34; What is said about lending to those who you hope/expect to receive back?*

9.) *In vs.35a; How does God want us to show our love to our enemies?*

10.) *In Vs.35b; What are the benefits/rewards for showing our love to our enemies in doing the things instructed to us in verse 35a?*

11.) *In vs.36; Why do we need to be merciful ?*

*\*“The big 4” of forgiveness towards our enemies:*

*(1) Love them*

*(2) Do good things for them*

*(3) Ask God to bless them*

*(4) Pray for them.*

*If we do these four things, God will change our hearts toward those who have wronged us. We will begin to experience a true sense of forgiveness and love for them. Loving your enemies is difficult. You can try to forgive them and be nice, but then they'll do something that reminds you why they are your enemy. But Jesus said God is “kind to the unthankful and evil.” You may say, “But I can't do that. That's impossible!” Yes, it is. But God wants to do the supernatural within us, that we can show forth His love to all people.*

Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”