

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T FORGIVE? MT. 6:14-15

Regardless of the clear teaching of Scripture and clear teaching and preaching of the same – some will not forgive.

So, what are the consequences?

1. A spiritual dead-end

Matthew 6:14 For **if** ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Matthew 6:15 **But if** ye forgive **not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Thoughts:

- This text is a hard text
- Not so much hard to understand but hard to accept / embrace
- God is your father / still your Father
- Salvation (at least in this text) isn't the issue but sanctification / growth in grace / moving forward is
- No forgiveness = no forward movement...a dead-end, stuck, stalled, stopped, imprisoned...

So what do you suggest? Should I root-around in my childhood?

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through **this** man is preached unto you **the forgiveness of sins**: **Acts 13:39** And **by him all** that believe are justified from **all** things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, And passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, Because he delighteth in mercy. **Micah 7:19** He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; And thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. **Micah 7:20** Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, Which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

My suggestion:

- Drink!
- Drink deeply!
- Give others a drink – as the situation demands!

2. An emotional prison

Ephesians 4:31 Let **all bitterness** (Πᾶσα πικρία), and wrath, and anger, and clamour (κραυγή), and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any **root of bitterness** (ρίζα πικρίας) springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Failure to forgive / an unwillingness to forgive bottles-up emotions of:

- Right & wrong
- Justice
- Fairness

The longer these are bottled-up they begin to transform / change into corrosive / harmful / self-destructive emotions...maybe we could call them off-putting emotions.

We find ourselves in:

- A prison
- An emotional prison

- **An emotional prison that we ourselves have built**
- **An emotional prison we have willingly entered and can (by God's grace) willingly leave!!!**
- **An emotional prison for which we hold the key!**

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” Lewis B. Smedes

“Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does change / enlarge the future.” Paul Boose

“Not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die.”

3. Displaced anger

Ephesians 4:26 **Be ye angry**, and sin **not**: let **not** the sun go down upon your wrath: **Ephesians 4:27** **Neither** give place to the devil.

Disobedience &/ an unwillingness to forgive bottles-up all those corrosive emotions → particularly anger, and bottled-up anger will not / does not stay bottled-up!

Anger finds a way out.

Anger always shows up – although not in **predictable ways and places!**

Anger even shows up in ways not predictable to the individual.

Proverbs 14:17 **He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly**: And a man of wicked devices is hated.

Proverbs 21:19 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, **Than with a contentious and an angry woman.**

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; And with a furious man thou shalt not go: **Proverbs 22:25** Lest thou learn his ways, And get a snare to thy soul.

Proverbs 29:22 **An angry man stirreth up strife, And a furious man aboundeth in transgression.**

4. Relational spillover

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby **many be defiled** (μιανθῶσιν πολλοί);

The ugliest part of disobedience is the out-of-proportion impact on children⁺⁺⁺.

What should I do? What should I counsel others to do?

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through **this** man is preached unto you **the forgiveness of sins**: **Acts 13:39** And **by him all** that believe are justified from **all** things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; **because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

John 14:27 **Peace** I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: **not** as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

Start drinking / eating / savoring the:

- **The love of God**
- **The forgiveness of God**
- **The Grace of God**
- **The Peace of God**

As hurts, wrongdoing, evil, harm...comes up → forgive and then get back to the goodness of God!!!