

"The Danger of Hypocrisy"

Part 14

Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction: For the past 2 weeks we have been looking at Matthew 6:12. In those 2 studies we looked at how this petition in the Lord's Prayer is not a prayer of salvation. That is clearly seen in Matthew 6:9 in the way in which God is to be addressed. He is to be addressed as our Father and only believers can call God Father. The outline that is given here for prayer can only be entered into by believers. You must be saved in order for this outline to even mean anything for you.

The unsaved cannot build their prayers upon this outline for the prayers of the unsaved never reach the Throne of God.

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

John 9:31

³¹ Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Therefore, the outline found in Matthew 6:9-13 is for the believer to build his or her prayers upon.

Just as a side note the outline found here in Matthew 6:9-13 also confirms that we as believers have eternal security in Christ. If we could lose our salvation then this confession of sin in verse 12 would

Wednesday May 29, 2013

need to be at the beginning for we would need to confess our sin before we would be able to address God as our Father again.

So this confession is not for salvation but as we talked about last week this confession is all about our fellowship with God. When we sin it does not affect our "relationship" with God but it does affect our "fellowship" with our Heavenly Father. When our fellowship is broken with our Father it also robs us of our joy.

Notice David's prayer as he confessed his sin of adultery and murder.

Psalm 51:9-12

⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Notice the theme of 1 John and John's desire for his readers.

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

Wednesday May 29, 2013

³ *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

So when we sin it robs us of our joy and so it is important that we confess our sins and when we do we are then restored back into the fellowship with the Lord.

1 John 1:9

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Today as we continue in Matthew 6:12 we are going to look closer at the verse for there is yet much in the verse that we need to see.

I. To get forgiveness we must give forgiveness.

Notice Matthew 6:12

Jesus tells us we are to ask for forgiveness just as we give forgiveness. Pay very close attention to the word "as". We are to expect the same forgiveness from our Father as we give to those who have offended us.

Notice Matthew 6:14-15

These 2 verses are footnotes which connect to verse 12. If we withhold forgiveness from those who have offended us then God will withhold forgiveness from us.

Let us stop and consider reasons why we need to forgive those who offend us.

1. Forgiveness shows forth the character of Christ in us.

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

¹⁰ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

¹¹ For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Paul was saying here that God permitted suffering and storms in his life and in those Paul was to die to self. This means he was not to cry out for his rights, he was not to fight against the pressures he was feeling. Those responses all come from our flesh. But instead of resisting and demanding he was to surrender and it would be as he surrendered the life of Christ would then be seen in his body.

The same happens in our lives also. God permits suffering and storms some of which are brought on by the actions other people who rise up against us as we serve God. It is so important that in those situations we understand that God has permitted someone to penetrate the hedge He has placed around us. In those situations our flesh wants to recoil and strike out at them or it desires to stand and cry out for our rights. But let us remember in order for Christ to be seen in us we must submit to the pain and the suffering just as He did on the cross.

Luke 23:33-34

³³ And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Wednesday May 29, 2013

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

2. Forgiveness manifests the image of God within us.

Let me refresh your minds on that which we have looked at on Sunday mornings.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

To be created in the image of God is to have within us some of the very attributes of God and there are 2 of His attributes seen when we extend forgiveness: mercy and grace.

Psalms 103:8-17

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Wednesday May 29, 2013

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Psalm 111:4

4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

When we extend forgiveness to those who have offended us there is never a time when more of God's image is seen in our lives.

3. Forgiveness frees our conscience from guilt.

Anytime we face a situation where we can offer forgiveness to someone who has offended us and we chose to withhold the forgiveness there is always guilt that weighs heavy upon us. It is the same when we do something which offends someone or God. In both of those situations there is a guilt that weighs heavy upon our conscience.

We see this in David's life when he went for over a year before he confessed his sin before God.

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

³ When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

⁴ For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

⁵ I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

When we withhold confession or we withhold forgiveness it places a weight of guilt upon our conscience.

Let me show you the words of Paul to the believers at Corinth. There was a man who was living in immorality and Paul addressed that very situation in 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 5:1, 13

It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

¹³ But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

When Paul wrote the 2nd letter he seemed to address that very situation but it was different now because the man apparently repented.

2 Corinthians 2:7-11

⁷ *So that contrariwise **ye ought rather to forgive him**, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.*

⁸ *Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.*

⁹ *For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.*

¹⁰ *To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;*

¹¹ **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

Verse 11 is so very important for us to look at. When we refuse to forgive those who have offended it gives Satan an advantage over us. You see, unforgiveness plants within us a root of bitterness which will work like a spiritual cancer within us. This root of bitterness will begin to effect every area of your life. You will become a constant complainer. The root of bitterness will lie right under the surface and when someone offends you that bitterness will rear its ugly head. Eventually it will make you miserable. You may think you are making the person who offended you suffer because you are withholding your forgiveness but the truth is you are tormenting yourself and that root of bitterness is eating you up on the inside.

Wednesday May 29, 2013

You see convincing you to withhold forgiveness is one of Satan's devices because it will render you completely ineffective in serving God. Bottom line is you are out of fellowship.

4. Forgiveness frees us from God's discipline.

Withholding forgiveness is sin and with sin comes consequences and one of the consequences of unforgiveness is God's discipline.

Hebrews 12:6-11

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

*¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but **grievous**: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

5. Withholding forgiveness causes God to withhold forgiveness from us.

Notice Matthew 6:14-15

Wednesday May 29, 2013

We need to be cleansed on a daily basis if we are to stay in fellowship with our Heavenly Father. That daily cleansing will never happen if we withhold forgiveness from someone who has offended us.

Conclusion:

This takes us to what we have been speaking of in the book of Esther for the past several months. If you are struggling with forgiving someone who has hurt you in some way, please know it is the "flesh" or "self" that desires to carry the grudge. It is your old sinful self that says, "I will never forgive them!"

You must come to the place where Esther came to. You must die to self and walk in the power of the 3rd day. That is the only way you will have victory over this grudge you are carrying.