

# Forgiving Others

Jesus declared to His own disciples in Luke 17:3

*"Take heed to yourselves."*

In all of our desire to serve the Lord, it is easy to overlook our own personal need for a Savior. It is much easier to point out the flaws in someone else rather than face the hard reality of the condition of our own heart. Jesus was telling them, "Guys, don't forget to apply everything I am telling you to your own life as well! You need to guard your own heart ... the things I want to do through you will require a greater capacity for more of My Spirit than you currently have!" Verse 3 continues,

*"If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."*

Jesus is revealing to us here how **He** operates. Everything in God's Kingdom is based upon forgiveness! It is easy to rebuke someone when they have wronged you. Sometimes it even gives us a prideful satisfaction. But Jesus raises the bar when He says, "First, rebuke them. But then, I want you to forgive them." Forgiveness is a powerful weapon. It disarms the devil. In stark contrast, unforgiveness is the devil's end game. Offenses are going to come! Jesus stated that in verse 1 of this chapter. Your enemy will make sure they will come right to your address. They will be personally labeled just for you! But you can beat the devil at his game every time by simply choosing to forgive.

Yes, life radically changes when you find forgiveness—not an emotional response, but new choices we are given. These choices were made available to us because of Jesus. This new journey began first, by *finding* forgiveness, and then, secondly by *receiving* forgiveness, and thirdly, by *forgiving yourself*! As we truly forgive ourselves it places us on a new road with a new result. The power of forgiveness comes right out of the Kingdom. It is a part of God's heart. And now, because of Jesus, we have the opportunity to forgive others in the midst of their offenses! And there is nothing which the devil can do to stop it!

- Randy Bach  
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