



The Lost Art of Being Forgiving Like the Son

Lesson Seven

When We Recover the Lost Art of BEING Forgiving...

- We **reflect** God's unconditional attitude toward sinners in general.
- It does not always **result** in the conditional act of personally forgiving our offender.
- It does not **replace** going and giving forgiveness.

The Unconditional Attitude of Being Forgiving	The Conditional Act of Giving Forgiveness
Personal <i>The need for our hearts to be right before God and toward the person.</i>	Relational <i>The need to go to the person – preferably in person.</i>
Unilateral <i>The offender does not have to be involved for this to happen.</i>	Mutual <i>The need to interact with the person and not do it unilaterally.</i>
Unconditional <i>Does not depend on what the offender does or does not do.</i>	Conditional <i>The offender asks for forgiveness and forgiveness is given.</i>

Being Forgiving Set Us Free Even When Others Never Ask Us for Forgiveness or Never Give Us Forgiveness!

*Being forgiving is the **gospel-centered** way of being set free when dealing with the unrepentant.*

*Being forgiving is an **unconditional attitude** that sets us free when others don't confess their sin and ask for forgiveness.*

*Giving forgiveness is a **conditional act** that sets others free when they confess their sin and ask for forgiveness.*

Recovering the Lost Art of Being Forgiving Like Jesus

*Being forgiving **REPRODUCES** the heart attitude of Jesus on the cross and Stephen being stoned.*

"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." - Jesus (Luke 23:34)

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" - Stephen (Acts 7:60)

1. How to Be Forgiving Toward Unrepentant Offenders While Being CRUCIFIED!

Luke 23:33-43

Q1 What does Jesus actually say?

Q2 Who does He pray to?

Q3 Who does He say it about?

Q4 Does Jesus actually say "I forgive all of you!"?

Q5 Does everyone who is crucifying Jesus actually get forgiven by God?

Q6 Does everyone who is crucifying Jesus actually get forgiven by Him?

Q7 Does anyone ever get forgiven? If so, how does it happen?

How Did the Rebel on the Cross Repent and Ask for Forgiveness? Luke 23:40-43

The Rebel Had a Change of Mind About...

- 1) Future **RETRIBUTION** from God.
- 2) His own **REBELLION** rightly deserving to be punished!
- 3) Christ's **RIGHTEOUSNESS** who did not deserve to be punished in this way
- 4) Christ's authority to **RULE** as King in His coming kingdom!
- 5) Christ's ability to **REDEEM** him from his sins!
- 6) God's **REVELATION** of Jesus as Lord, the only Savior of the world!
- 7) Christ's **RESURRECTION** from the dead!

The Rebel's Change of Life Is Seen in...

- 1) **WHAT** he **STOPPED** doing: **MOCKING CHRIST!**
- 2) **WHAT STARTED** doing: **EXPOSING SIN!**
- 3) **WHO** he **TURNED** to for salvation: **CHRIST ALONE!**
- 4) **WHY** he **ASKED** for salvation: To enjoy being under the **LORDSHIP OF CHRIST!**

2. How to Be Forgiving Toward Unrepentant Offenders While Being STONED! Acts 7:53-8:1

Q1 What does Stephen actually say?

Q2 Who does he say it to?

Q3 Who does he say it about?

Q4 Does Stephen actually say "I forgive all of you!"?

Q5 Does everyone who is stoning Stephen actually get forgiven by God?

Q6 Does everyone who is stoning Stephen actually get forgiven by Stephen or Jesus?

Q7 Does anyone ever get forgiven? If so, how does it happen?

Lessons to Learn About the Art of Being Forgiving Toward Others (Especially Those Who May Never Ask Us for Forgiveness or Never Give Us Forgiveness)

- Being forgiving is a **RADICAL** attitude toward the unrepentant offender.
- Being forgiving is a radical **READINESS** to forgive the offender before they ever repent and even if they never do repent.
- Being forgiving is a radical **REQUEST** for God – the just Judge – to show mercy to the unrepentant offender.
- Being forgiving is a radical **RELEASING** of the unrepentant offender into the hands of our merciful Judge.

Being Forgiving Set Us Free Even When Others Never Ask Us for Forgiveness or Never Give Us Forgiveness!