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## **The Need for Forgiveness**

Do you know that holding on to unforgiveness only hurts yourself. One may think that they are getting “even” with someone by not forgiving them, but the reality of the issue is that it only hurts the one holding on to the unforgiveness. Forgiving people is important. Very important.

In fact, Yeshua calls it a “more important matter” of the law. Or a “weightier matter” as some versions say it. Meaning, it’s a topic that supersedes most others in the eyes of YHWH.

Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

He said "the more important matters of the law". If we reject those matters, we are no different than the Pharisee's. Yeshua said that mercy is a matter that is considered “more important”. Mercy IS forgiveness. Forgiving others is a more important matter in Torah.

Remember, the Torah was given for our good.

Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does YHWH your God ask of you but to fear the YHWH your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to observe YHWH’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

Torah was given for our benefit. When you forgive someone, you are truly benefitting yourself. It’s been said that holding on to unforgiveness can even effect our health. And while you may

forget that you haven't let something go, your attitude changes quickly when you see that individual again. And then your attitude can effect those around you, let alone yourself.

So what is forgiveness(qm) Forgiveness is giving up your right for vengeance. Just like with a bank. If you are forgiven a debt, they do not pursue you for the payment. Will they let you make a loan there again, of course not. But they have relinquished their right to enforce repayment.

Likewise, we are to relinquish our right for vengeance. We don't have to be "best buddies" with that person. But we have to let all bitterness and ill feelings go. Otherwise you are still holding on to your right for vengeance. The problem is that YHWH says vengeance is HIS. We'll come back to that later.

Let it be known that while we don't have to be "best buddies" with the person you have forgiven, we believe that we are to treat them with respect just the same. To be cordial with them. This does not mean you have to call them up for a daily chat. However, if they appear at the same place you may be, let the fruit of the Spirit be evident in your life.

I was once told that the requirement for forgiving people was not in the Torah. They basically said we should forgive people, but our forgiveness from Yahweh is not based on whether we forgive others or not. They said that would make it a works based salvation and there would be no salvation without it.

First, let's make it clear that forgiving others IS in the Torah. It falls under loving your neighbor as yourself. It's the second greatest command according to Yeshua.

Leviticus 19:18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am YHWH.

Bearing a grudge is holding on to unforgiveness. Just because you may not be SEEKING revenge, you can still be holding on to unforgiveness. Harboring bitterness that will only bring you down. This is something we are instructed not to do.

How else would Yeshua be able to make all these following statements if this wasn't in the Torah(qm)

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Luke 6:37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Luke 11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. ...."

Luke 17: 3 So watch yourselves.

“If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

That should let us know that this can be a difficult thing for people. And then Mark 11.

Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Yeshua came to show us the intent of the Torah. The purpose and spirit of the Torah. These verses make Yeshua’s emphasis clear and to the point. If we believe that Yeshua came to bring clarity to the Torah, then there is no other conclusion to the matter. Otherwise you are accusing Yeshua of adding to the Torah. That would make him a sinner by breaking Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32 (show). But Yeshua was not a sinner. He was our spotless lamb.

I asked the person who said our forgiveness from Yahweh is not based on whether we forgive others or not just how they interpreted Matt. 18:21-35. Let’s read it together and then we can review their response.

Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Matthew 18:22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

Matthew 18:26 “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Matthew 18:28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

Matthew 18:29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

Matthew 18:30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

Matthew 18:32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

Matthew 18:35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

After referring to these verses, the individual told me... “Those verses are clearly about a wicked slave which shows he isn't following Torah. I don't see that as the same thing.”

The problem with that train of thought is that the servant wasn't considered wicked at first. If he was wicked at the start, do we really think the master would have initially forgiven his debt. Maybe, maybe not. But it wasn't until the servant chose to NOT forgive his FELLOW servant that he was considered wicked. So, what makes him “wicked” is the fact that he didn't forgive his brother! He refused to obey the second greatest command. That was when he was considered wicked. This is important to note. It's VERY important to note.

The servant refused to forgive as he was forgiven. This was the act that made that master call him “wicked”. THAT resulted in his forgiveness being rescinded. And then Yeshua makes a HUGE statement that can't be overlooked.

Matthew 18:35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Wow. So regardless if the servant was wicked from the start or not, this is how we will be treated if we don't forgive from our heart. Now then, Yeshua is either adding to the Torah with that statement or He is clearing the air on what the Torah meant. Yeshua was telling us that we must forgive to be forgiven. It's that simple. Our forgiveness from the father will be rescinded, completely repealed if we don't forgive others from the heart. It's that important of a matter in the Torah. It's the second greatest command of all.

Matthew 22: 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

He was quoting Leviticus 19:18. So when Yeshua discusses the more important matters of the Torah, there should be no mistake that forgiving is the second greatest.

But wouldn't that make it a works based salvation as the individual mentioned earlier(qm) Meaning that you can't be saved without forgiving others. A works based salvation says one must do something to be saved.

Let's dig into this, as this seems to be an issue for many people. How are we saved by grace if we have to do something in order to receive salvation(qm)

The answer is in how faith is dead without works. James said...

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

James 2:20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

"Not by faith alone". One can say they have faith but if they *refuse* to follow in obedience, they are living in rejection. We are indeed saved by grace. But we are expected to walk in that grace when given it.

We are accountable to the knowledge we have been given.

John 9:39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

John 9:40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

John 9:41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Once we are given knowledge of sin, it is up to us to act on that knowledge. Otherwise we are cherishing that sin and not repenting of it. "Repent" in the Hebrew is "teshuva". That means to turn away from, to act differently. Action is required. Just as shown by Yeshua's story of the

wicked servant, salvation is given freely but action is required to retain it. Thus, our salvation starts in the heart through grace but is sustained by our actions.

Jeremiah 17:10 “I YHWH search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”

The servant received grace but his deeds there after voided that grace.

It is our deeds that prove what is in our heart and mind. And it's the Torah that is to be written on our hearts according to Jeremiah 31:33. (show) Our deeds determine our judgement. Be it for positive or negative. Our deeds prove our salvation or they prove our rejection of the truth. Yeshua even illustrates it for us here in talking to the Pharisee's.

Matthew 21:28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

Matthew 21:29 “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Matthew 21:30 “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

Matthew 21:31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Notice He said “repent and believe”. Your actions follow your heart. You do what you believe.

To have faith in the "way of righteousness" is proven by walking in the way of righteousness. Teshuva is all about our actions in the faith.

Someone once told me “If we are forgiving someone in order to be forgiven, then it's a works-based salvation. I would question if it's really true forgiveness at all at that point.”

But this applies to everything across the board. How many times did we do something when our parents told us to even though we didn't want to(qm) We may not want to do something, but because we know that YHWH wants us to, we do it. Some people struggle with giving up Christmas. But because they know it opposes Torah, they give it up. Some people struggle with giving up bacon, but because they know it opposes Torah, they give it up. But when the topic of

forgiveness comes up and someone only forgives because the Torah says that is what we are suppose to do, they say it's "works based". But the logic is the same. We obey because that's what the Father wants.

When I came to Torah I realized that these were the instructions for Life. These are His ways for us to live. He knows what is best for us. Can I not trust Him in that. Can I not pursue His ways just in the simple fact of knowing that He gave them to us because He knows what is best for us. Can I not pursue His ways in being thankful for them and knowing that He gave them to us for our own good(qm) (show Duet 10:13)

As mentioned, once we are given knowledge of sin, it is up to us to act on that knowledge. Otherwise we are cherishing that sin and not repenting of it.

Psalm 66:18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.

Why would he not listen(qm)

Proverbs 15:29 YHWH is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

YHWH considers those who cherishes sin in their heart to be wicked. Just like we saw Yeshua referring to the servant as wicked AFTER he refused to forgive as he was forgiven. Willful sin separates us from the Father. I'm NOT talking about falling to temptation. I'm talking about refusing to repent after that fall. It's the attitude of the heart towards that sin that we are talking about. Do you repent of it, or do you cherish it(qm) Do you forgive your fellow servant or do you cherish that vengeance in your heart(qm)

We are not to cherish sin. We are to repent from it. ...Teshuva. Once we are given the knowledge of our sin, it is up to us to teshuva. To act upon that knowledge in turning away from that sin. If we don't, it is considered rebellion in the eyes of YHWH. Exactly how long He gives us to act is dependent upon His grace.

You might be struggling with what I have said about our salvation starting in the heart through grace but is sustained by our actions. You might even be saying "How is it grace if we have to do something in order to keep our salvation(qm)" If this is you, please consider what Yeshua, Himself, said about it.

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

While I don't believe one "earns" their salvation, we still have to "keep" our salvation. We have to "remain" in Him. And "remaining" in Him is founded in loving our brother. Verses 9 through 12 says that remaining in Him consists of loving our brother, the 2nd greatest command. If we refuse to love, we are cut off. This cannot be ignored. Consider what He said in the previous chapter.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

So, if we love Him, we will forgive others. If we don't forgive others, it's taken that we don't love Him.

Example: You're in water drowning. You cry out for help. Someone throws you a life preserver. Did you do anything to be saved(qm) Other than asking for it, no. BUT, you still have to hold on to the life preserver. If you don't, you drown. So is there action required for you to be saved(qm) Yes. Holding on to that which was given to you.

We have to remain in Him. The Word is what has been given to us. We have to pursue obedience to it if we want to be saved.

1Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

So according to these verses, are we purified by believing the Word or by obeying it(qm) Obeying it PROVES you believe it.



If one REFUSES to forgive they are rejecting the Word. Thus, rejecting their very salvation. The Word is our salvation that is to be planted in us.

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

How can it save you(qm) If you live it. That's why it continues to say...

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.

And again....

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word (logos/lo/gou) of God.

One who rejects that word is rejecting salvation.

Deuteronomy 30:14-16

No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. 15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Some might say that “doing” something to stay saved is only negating grace.

Yet, those who hold on to unforgiveness are the ones who are snubbing their nose at grace just as the wicked servant did. He was given grace but wouldn't give it. Virtually saying "I can receive it but I don't have to give it."

Proverbs 26:27 If a man digs a pit, he will fall into it; if a man rolls a stone, it will roll back on him.

In other words, you reap what you sow. Just like we saw with the wicked servant. This is also seen in Paul's writings.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

One who receives grace from YHWH but then turns around and rejects the very command for him to do the same for others is indeed mocking God. And as Paul said, they will reap what they sow. Just as Yeshua illustrated with the wicked servant.

But Paul doesn't stop at verse 7. He continued on in how we are to overcome the sinful nature. Our sinful nature does not want to forgive. Verse 10 concludes this section with continued advice regarding the second greatest command.

8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

So if we hold on to unforgiveness, we reject the 2nd greatest command and will will reap destruction. How can we refuse to forgive(qm) How can we refuse to do the very thing that was done for us(qm)

Some might try to say “But if we have to do this to stay saved, then we HAVE to do it all. We HAVE to be circumcised. Then we HAVE to do the dietary instructions. Then we HAVE to do this and we HAVE to do that if we are to stay saved.”

But again, Yeshua said there are greater and lesser matters to the law. Using circumcision is not a good example. Many Pharisee's tried using this as a greater matter when it was not. No where in the scriptures is it written that not being circumcised keeps you in the darkness. The scriptures give us nothing to say that circumcision is a requirement for salvation. Should we pursue it(qm) Yes. But we will not be rejected if we are not. Yet, we have multiple places that tell us if we do not forgive that we are still in darkness. Forgiveness is the foundation of love.

1John 2:9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

Not walking in love puts us in darkness.

1John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

Yeshua said that if we do not forgive that we will not be forgiven in Matt. 6:14 and 15.(show)

Then illustrating it for us by way of the wicked servant.(show) If one claims they are in Him, they have to forgive. That is the very foundation of love. To walk in the Truth is a choice we must choose everyday. It is not a one time deal. Thus, we have to remain in Him. It's not "earning" our salvation, it's choosing to remain in it. Call it "earning" if you want, but Yeshua calls it "remaining in Him". It's a daily choice of taking up your cross and following Him.

Yeshua was specific in making this a greater issue of the law. If one refuses to forgive, they will not be forgiven. If one refuses to forgive, the 2nd greatest command, they are rejecting the Word. Forgiveness is free. But once we have been forgiven we are required to do the same unto others. Otherwise we are dealing with a form of hypocrisy. That's right. Hypocrisy.

Now, saying "You have to forgive to come INTO salvation" is like saying "You have to be clean to take a bath". BUT just as one is clean after taking a bath, one should forgive if they are saved.

Otherwise, you are choosing to walk back out into the mudd. Again, Yeshua said that if we don't forgive from the heart, just as we were forgiven, that we will be treated just like the wicked servant. He didn't say this about circumcision, tithes, feast days or any other command. He said it specifically about forgiving others. This shows He is confirming that forgiving others was a greater matter of the Law. And we know that he placed as the SECOND GREATEST of all.

It is the forgiveness of our sins that allows us to be saved. That allows us to be washed clean. It's the very premise by which we are accepted. If we refuse to do unto others what the Father has done for us, we will be rejected just like Yeshua said. So if one is truly in the light, they will love their brother and not hold a grudge against them. They will forgive because they themselves know what they have been forgiven of.

And this is why we read from Paul...

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

John's words are even stronger.

1John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

And how do we love our brother(qm) By forgiving them as we were forgiven and not holding ANY grudge against them.

There are many things in the law for us to pursue, but Word shows us that this is in the top of the list. It was the one thing that Yeshua said would be the sign that all men will know that we are His disciples. It wasn't the dietary laws. It wasn't the feast days. It wasn't circumcision. No. It was loving one another. The second greatest command.

This was the major element that would separate the Disciples of Yeshua from the Pharisee's. We all know that the Sabbath is a sign for all believers. Though Yeshua confronted the Pharisee's on their interpretations to the Sabbath, He showed how they were completely neglecting the second greatest command in Matt. 23:23. This is why He said to His disciples...

John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

This was to differentiate His followers from the those of the Pharisee's. I think it's important to note what Yeshua said exactly after saying that our righteousness must be greater than the Pharisee's. Consider...

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

What is the opposite of loving your neighbor according the scriptures(qm)

Leviticus 19:18 “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am (YHWH)the LORD.

If you are not forgiving others, then your righteousness does not surpass that of the Pharisee's righteousness. If that is the case for you, then Yeshua said you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (show Matt. 5:20) Those are His words, not mine.

Many may respond with “But Yeshua is our righteousness.” To this I agree. But remember, you have to remain in Him. If you do not remain in Him, following His commands, then you will be cut off and thrown into the flames. (show John 15:5,6) So, yes, He's our righteousness,... if we're in Him.

Our love is to distinguish us and confirm that we are indeed followers of Yeshua.

Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be

sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Luke 6:27 through 36 is very similar to these verses here in Matt. 5. But we find a couple things included we don't see in Matt.

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Do you make mistakes(qm) Don't you want people to forgive you(qm) Of course you do. Then we need to show mercy and forgive.

Consider also what He said a few verses down...

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

"For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

We ARE judged according to our deeds\actions. It's NOT a works BASED salvation but rather your faith is exemplified in what you do. While it starts in your heart, it is lived out in your actions. THAT's why Jeremiah says...

Jeremiah 17:10 "I (YHWH)the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

Some could say "Even a non-believer likely forgives others at some point. How can that be proof they are in Yeshua(qm)"

Forgiving, by itself, is not proof that you are in Yeshua. It's the last of the fruit to be tested to prove you are in Yeshua. It's the FINAL litmus that lets us know. Meaning, you can follow all the other laws, just like the Pharisee's did(in their man made ways of course), but forgiving others while pursuing the Torah will prove that you are in Yeshua.

Equally the same, rejecting to forgive someone is proof you are not in Him. The moment someone says "I will not forgive that person" even though they follow every other command to a "T", it won't matter. Just like with the Pharisee's. They gave their tithes but rejected mercy(forgiveness). They showed the hypocrisy of their ways.

Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

Again, "the more important matters of the law". If we reject those matters, which includes forgiveness, we are no different than the Pharisee's. We make ourselves to be hypocrites just like them. Basically saying that we can receive forgiveness but that's as far as it goes with me.

The scriptures on this topic shows we have to forgive if we expect to remain in Him. When one willingly rejects to forgive, they are choosing to walk in darkness according to 1 John.(show) Thus, showing that they are not in the light.

Loving our neighbor is threaded throughout the scriptures. 1 Cor.13 says that without it we are nothing.(show) I'm concerned for anyone who chooses to willfully refuse to forgive someone while claiming to be in the Faith. These are the ones that may very well hear the words given to us in Matt. 7:21.

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

As I've noted before about this verse, the greek phrase here “*ἐργαζόμενοι τὴν ἀνομίαν*” - ergazomenoi ten anomian - actually means “workers of lawlessness”.

Besides John 15 and the other places we have noted regarding Yeshua talking on this subject, many times over we see where Yeshua made forgiving others at the top of His list to preach on. Another time He spoke on it is here.

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Luke 10:26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

Luke 10:27 He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Luke 10:28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

Luke 10:29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he

fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Luke 10:36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

Luke 10:37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Please note here the opening question in these verses. (show v.25) He asked what he was to do in order to inherit eternal life. What was the answer(qm)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Luke 10:28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

So, according to Yeshua, to inherit eternal life, the top two commands are what we must do.

Also note verse 29.(show) this man wanted to justify himself. Evidently in not forgiving everyone. But Yeshua made it clear by the parable he gave that "neighbor" means everyone.

But if one willfully rejects one of these two commands,(show Luke 10:27,28) how can they inherit eternal life(qm) And that is what we see with the Pharisee's back in Matt, 23:23. They refused to forgive, to show mercy, even though they were keeping other parts of the law.

Forgiving someone is not easy. It requires us to crucify the flesh, our earthly nature. Thus, the words of Yeshua...

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

It's a daily thing. We must daily choose to crucify our flesh and forgive. Otherwise we will be cut off.

Though some will try to say this is a "works-based salvation", it's not. It is salvation proven by

our actions\works. And if those works are dead, so is the faith. Just as James said in chapter 2. (show 2:17)

Our belief and actions have to work together. Even Heb. 3 & 4 shows that the children of Israel was condemned because of their actions. And it says that we have received the SAME gospel that they did.(show HEB. 4:2)

Some might say “That means acts are required to retain our salvation.” Yes. That’s what Yeshua said. We MUST remain in Him. This is a matter of attitude towards these commands that Yeshua declared was more weightier. There are many things that we can only try and pursue. But this is one that Yeshua said we MUST do. It is a weightier matter. It is a more important matter. If you refuse to forgive, then that is how you will be treated by our Heavenly father according to Yeshua.

An apple tree is proven to be an apple tree when it produces apples. The same for us. If the Word is in us, the proof will be in what we produce. This is not a topic taken lightly by YHWH. We have been forgiven, therefore we MUST forgive. Remember, we are judged by our deeds. And this is a deed that He considers of high importance.

Once we come to the Faith, we are commanded to do as was done for us. If we refuse, we are choosing to go back into darkness as 1 John says and we are cut off from the vine as Yeshua said.

Obviously, this is a very important topic. But some don’t seem to realize that it plays a major role for believers even in the end times. Sounds crazy right(qm) Well, hold on, you may change your mind in a moment.

As noted, forgiveness is all about the second greatest commandment. It’s all about brotherly love. It SHOWS brotherly love. It’s the very act or deed of brotherly love. Brotherly love is the VERY characteristic that the church of Philadelphia is named after. And let’s not forget that Philadelphia was the only church to be kept from the hour of temptation in Revelation.

Please see our teaching titled “The Seven Churches” for more details on that. But let’s briefly look at this.

[Rev. 3:7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:](#)

[These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds.](#)

Let’s pause here for a second. He said “I know your deeds”. What are we judged according to(qm) It’s our deeds. What we do on the outside. Our deeds are the proof of what we have inside. Again, Jeremiah 17.



Jeremiah 17:10 “I (YHWH)the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”

It is our deeds that prove what is in our heart and mind. Our deeds determine our judgement, be it for good or bad. There is no way around that. The deeds that we give unto others will be what comes back on us.(show Luke 6:38) Just like we saw with the wicked servant in Matt. 18.(show v.35) As the saying goes “What goes around, comes around.” Even Jeremiah 25:14 says...

“They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

Notice here that it was the nations of the world that YHWH used to bring judgment on His people. When the Torah is not the law of the land, YHWH uses the nations and individuals of the nations to execute judgement on His people. He uses His people to declare the judgement is coming, but rarely, if ever, has He used His own people to inflict that judgement when Torah is not the law of the land. It is either by His own hand, or by the nations after His prophets declare it is coming.

In all of this, if you want to be forgiven, then you must forgive. If someone offends you or hurts you. Forgive them. Don't hang on to it. Consider what Paul wrote to the Romans.

Romans 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

“Overcome evil with good.” If someone does you wrong, don't lower yourself to their standards. Forgive them. Relinquish your right to vengeance. Let YHWH take care of that. Otherwise you may be only making it come back on yourself.

Vengeance is YHWH's. Do not take from Him what belongs to Him. He knows how to execute vindication far better than we do. If we keep that vengeance for ourselves, we are only going to reap that same vindication.

And so we see the church of Brotherly Love, those who have forgiven their brothers, are rewarded in the end times. While the others will go through a more difficult time of refinement under the antichrist, the Church of Philadelphia will be removed from the antichrist's reach.

Continuing with the verse...

“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little

strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars — I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

The Church of Brotherly Love. Those who hold no grudges against their neighbor. They are the ones who are protected in the end times. Are you holding any grudges against someone(qm) Are you holding on to unforgiveness. Let it go.

Unforgiveness is a form of pride. It's holding on to your right for vengeance when YHWH says that vengeance belongs to Him.(verse) Unforgiveness from a believer is a form of hypocrisy. (verse) Just like it was with the Pharisee's. It's mocking YHWH in accepting His forgiveness but refusing to submit to Him in giving forgiveness to others.(verse)

Salvation is a free gift, but that doesn't mean it's a free ride. We are expected to pursue obedience to the rules of the house that the Father has established. And He told us which ones are the most important. Forgiving others is one of them.

Unforgiveness is holding on to your ways and not His ways. It's refusing to crucify the flesh. Holding on to vengeance is only preserving it so that it will eventually come back on you. Please, let unforgiveness go. Walk in the Joy and freedom of having that weight removed from your heart today.

We are the light of the world. Let His light shine through you.

We hope you have enjoyed this teaching. Now it's up to you to be a Berean and study it for yourself. That's the only way to grow.

Until next time, Shalom.

For the video of this teaching and others, please visit us at [TorahFamily.org](http://TorahFamily.org).

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