TOPIC PRINTABLE

Forgiveness

God's forgiveness, forgiving others, and why Scripture ties the two together.

EPHESIANS 4:32

And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.

Forgive as God in Christ forgave you: the pattern and the reason in one sentence.

MATTHEW 18:21-22

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I don't tell you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven.

Peter suggests a generous limit — seven times. Jesus' answer removes the limit altogether.

MATTHEW 6:14-15

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don't forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Jesus' comment right after the Lord's Prayer ties forgiving others to receiving forgiveness.

LUKE 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." Dividing His garments among them, they cast lots.

Jesus prays for forgiveness for those crucifying Him — the most demanding example in the Gospels.

PSALM 103:10-12

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us for our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His loving kindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions

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from us.

God removes our transgressions “as far as the east is from the west.”

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession and forgiveness: God is faithful to forgive those who acknowledge their sins.

COLOSSIANS 3:13

bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do.

Bear with one another and forgive — forgiveness as ongoing practice in community.

SIRACH 28:2

Forgive your neighbor the hurt that he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.

Centuries before the Gospels, Sirach connects forgiving a neighbor with being forgiven in prayer.

ISAIAH 1:18

“Come now, and let’s reason together,” says the LORD: “Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

God invites His people to reason together: sins like scarlet made white as snow.

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