

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

May 2, 2011

Forgiving the Offender

Think about the times you have been messed over. The times you have been messed over deliberately! Were you offended corporately or personally? It doesn't matter why it happened, you just know it made you angry! It made you hurt! It made you disappointed! It made you want revenge! It brought hatred in your heart! It made you unforgiving! Absolutely devastated! You would say to yourself, "Why did this have to happen to us or perhaps me?" In the following scriptures, God tells us how devastation should be handled.

In the first scripture reading, He speaks on FORGIVENESS (Reconciliation)

In the second scripture reading, He speaks on FORGIVENESS - (Self evaluation / No condemnation)

In the third scripture reading, He speaks on FORGIVENESS – (Our attitude / Mercy)

In the fourth scripture reading, He speaks on FORGIVENESS – (Revenge)

2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11 NLT – (5) I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. (6) Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. (7) Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. (8) So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him. (9) I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. (10) When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, (11) so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

JOHN 8:7-11 NLT – (7) They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" (8) Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. (9) When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. (10) Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" (11) "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

MATTHEW 18:23-35 NLT – (23) "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. (24) In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. (25) He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. (26) "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' (27) Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. (28) "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. (29) "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. (30) But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. (31) "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. (32) Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. (33) Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' (34) Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. (35) "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

ROMANS 12:19-21 NLT – (19) Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. (20) **Instead, "If** your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." (21) Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

How many times have we devastated Christ as individuals or as a people? Did He not forgive? Did He measure the sin we committed? He got on the cross after being beaten to death to show His love to an unworthy people. Did He forgive you? He expects the same from us. Why? It is a command and the key to living the abundant life.

SCRIPTURE READING

EZEKIEL 34:11-31

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God often uses a set back to move us ahead.

