

You Can Be Forgiven

God's Toughest Job – Part 2 of 4

The great message of God's love

But in our time something new –Jesus-setting-things-right for us. ... for everyone who believes in him. ... God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured. This is not only clear, but it's now—this is current history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness. (**Rom 3:21-26; Message**)

Two great examples of forgiveness

- The Woman Caught in Adultery

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them remain to condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go! From now on don't sin." (**John 8:10-11**)

- Peter after betraying Jesus

Then the Lord turned and looked directly at Peter. Peter remembered what the Lord had said: "Before a rooster crows today, you will say three times that you don't know me." ⁶² Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly. (**Luke 22:61-62; God's Word for the Nations**)

Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead. After breakfast Jesus asked Peter [three times], "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied [three times], "you know I love you." "Then feed and take care of my sheep," Jesus told him [three times]. (**John 21:14-17; NLT**)

“Mercy triumphs over judgment” (**James 2:13**)

FIVE FAILURES: (Reasons we fail to experience God's forgiveness and mercy)

1. Failure to **OWN OUR SIN**

Then the LORD God called to the man, where are you?" He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid. The LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, that's why I ate it." Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it." (**Genesis 3:9-13**)

2. Failure to **HUMBLE OURSELVES** and **ACCEPT GOD'S GRACE**

Pride goes before ruin, Arrogance, before failure. (**Proverbs 16:18; Tanakh**)

Then a man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good deed should I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to enter into life, obey the commandments." The young man replied, "I have obeyed all these commandments. What else do I need to do?" Jesus said to him, "Sell what you own, give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then follow me!" When the young man heard this, he went away sad because he possessed much. (**Matthew 19:16-22**)

For since the world began, no one has ever heard or seen a God like you, who works on behalf of those who seek you! You stick with those who gladly follow godly ways. But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly. How can people like us be saved? We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our attempts at righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. We have not called on your name or plead for your mercy. (**Isaiah 64:4-8; NLT**)

"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands. (**Isaiah 43:18-19**)

3. Failure to **KNOW WHO GOD REALLY IS**

Three simple facts about God:

- i. God does not count the times—there are no limits on His forgiveness
- ii. God does not grade or measure our sins—none are trivial and none are too great for His mercy
- iii. God keeps no record of our wrongs—once forgiven, He remembers none of our sins

4. Failure to **CHANGE**

A man who realizes what he is doing and turns away from all the rebellious things that he has done. He will certainly live. He will not die. "Change the way you think and act. Turn away from all the rebellious things that you have done so that you will not fall into sin. Stop all the rebellious things that you are doing. Get yourselves new hearts and new spirits. Why do you want to die, nation of Israel? ³² I don't want anyone to die," declares the Almighty LORD. "Change the way you think and act!" (**Ezekiel 18:28-32; God's Word for the Nations**)

People live who have thought it over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die. Repent, and turn from your sins. Don't let them destroy you! Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live! (**Ezekiel 18:28-32; NLT**)

5. Failure to **FORGIVE OTHERS**

Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Jesus replied, "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.

... 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. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart." (**Matthew 18:21-35; NLT**)

Forgive us as we forgive others. (**Matthew 6:12; God's Word for the Nations**)

Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. (**Colossians 3:13; Message**)