BIBLE - THE ATTITUDE OF FORGIVENESS

LUKE 23: 32-46 – TEXT

**INTRODUCTION** – Jesus is indeed the ultimate example of possessing the attitude of forgiveness. Luke’s inspired account of the crucifixion and the last words of Jesus does not say “I am innocent” or “I am being framed” and they were not a cry for justice. Some of the last words of Jesus on the cross were ***“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”***

**Definition of forgiveness** – ***to release, to let go, to overlook, to pardon an offense such as a debt.***

Generally speaking the older we get the harder it is for us to forgive others, this is not the case with children who are one moment upset and the next minute have forgotten about it.

Notice the forgiving attitude of Jesus in our text. If we can just possess a small degree of Jesus compassion and willingness to forgive, we will be better off, the church will be better off, and the world will be better off.

***THE ATTITUDE OF FORGIVENESS:***

1. **WHY DO WE HAVE** **FORGIVENESS?**
   1. **HEB. 7:24-27** – Jesus offered himself for us.
   2. **HEB. 10:10-14** – He offered a sacrifice for our sins.
   3. **1 PET. 2:21-24** – He bore our sins – yours and mine.
2. **EXAMPLES OF FORGIVENESS** –
   1. **ACTS 7:59-60** – Stephen was willing to forgive.
   2. **2 TIM. 4:16** – Paul was willing to forgive.
   3. **LUKE 17:3-4** – We are commanded to forgive others also even if they have done us wrong.
      1. Forgiveness is not ignoring the one who wronged you.
      2. Forgiveness is not reprisal an eye for an eye type of mentality.
      3. **LUKE 18:9-14** – Forgiveness is not received because you think you are better than others – God must have forgiven me because I am sure not as bad as brother so-so. We must have a humble spirit to receive forgiveness.
3. **HOW DOES** **GOD FORGIVE?**
   1. **LUKE 7:36-50** – He releases us completely of our debts.
   2. **HEB. 8:12** – In establishing the new covenant God says he will remember our sins no more.
   3. **LUKE 15:18-24** – God treats us like the prodigal son.
4. **FORGIVENESS IS COMMANDED** -
   1. **COL. 3:13** – We have to bear with one another.
   2. **EPH. 4:32** – Forgive one another even when it is difficult to do so.
   3. **MATT. 6:12-15** – Our forgiveness is conditional upon forgiving others. – Some say I will forgive but I will not forget. Do we want God to not forget about our sins?
   4. **2 COR. 13:5** – We need to examine our attitude toward forgiveness.
5. **DO I HAVE TO OVERLOOK THE SHORT COMINGS OF A FRIEND?** Jesus did, notice his relationship with Peter. What if Jesus did not overlook our shortcomings? We some times say it is difficult to forgive a brother because they should have known better. Note the attitude of Jesus toward his disciples.
   1. **MATT. 17:1-5** – Peter speaks words of ignorance.
   2. **JN. 13:4-10** – The apostles had been arguing about who would be greatest in the kingdom and Jesus teaches them a lesson about humility. Peter did not want the Lord to wash his feet.
   3. **LUKE 22:33-34** – Peter said he would go with Jesus to death.
   4. **LUKE 22:54-62** – Peter’s denial and the look of Jesus.

**CONCLUSION** - Can a friend fail? YES Can we forgive? YES - That is why we sing the song “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” - Jesus is our friend and because of that friendship he is willing to forgive us of our sins. We need to be willing to forgive others also. If you need the forgiveness of Jesus today please come