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Forgive to be Forgiven

Wyatt Sawyer

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FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN

Matt. 18:1-6

(deacon)

35 yr. old man restored at Highland, (Memphis) in 1959.
Harbored a sin in his heart 14 yrs. since W. War II.
He said, "If I had died between '45 & '59 lost forever."
Needless, tragic suffering due to a hold-over sin. Just one
James 2:10.

I. MAKES US THINK ABOUT THE VARIOUS WAYS A MAN CAN BE LOST.
C. Lost in silence. Matthew 10:32. "

A. Best detected by its 3 main characteristics.
  1. Invisible: Resentment, grudge and unforgiveness
     toward a fellow human being. Ps. 19:12.
     Petrified. Ill. Little girl & dog. "Bark still inside." Knt. 292
     2. Irresistible: Becomes a phobia which overcomes and
        overwhelms us at certain times.
     e.g. Ill. Woman and headaches. Knt. 293. Worked up blood-
        pressure every time thought of other person. Sick
     3. Incapacitating: Strong enough to immobilize us.
     Ill. New York Physician's statement: "70% of my
        patients reveal resentment toward others in
        their illness-pattern. Forgiveness on their
        part will do more than all my pills." Reason?
        a. Pope said: "The man who receives the injury
           holds the superior position. He now has the
           power to increase his greatness and bigness
           by forgiving his oppressor." EXPLAIN!!!!

III. EXPLAINED IN OUR LORD'S TEACHINGS ON FORGIVENESS.
A. Luke 17:1. Not IF offences come, but HOW to handle when!
C. Peter, by his human standard would stand condemned today
   1. Count-Down to Destruction. Everyone allowed only 7 !!
      7 to go: Sinned in rebuking Christ. Matt. 16:22.
      6 to go: Sinned in minimizing Christ. Matt. 17:4-5.
      5 to go: Ignored Jesus under pressure. Matt. 26:70.
      3 to go: Cursed to save his skin. Matt. 26:74.
      2 to go: Deserted the ministry. John 21:3.
      0 to go: Abandoned Gentiles at Antioch. Gal. 2:11-12

Peter could not be forgiven in this world or world to come
by human standard!
IV. CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS FOLLOW THE STUDY OF FORGIVENESS.

1. He who HAS not forgiven all others on earth their trespasses, cannot be forgiven his trespasses by the Father in Heaven, in this world or world to come.

2. He who harbors grudges, ill-will or an unforgiving attitude will wallow forever in his own unforgiving spirit, in the region of the UNFORGIVING and UNFORGIVEN.

3. Man has offended God more than 490 times but when he became a Christian, he was forgiven everyone. Heb.10:17

4. If God can forgive my MANY MANY sins, then the least thing I can do, in preparing for Heaven, is to forgive another of the FEW SINS committed against me.

INV: THIS IS OUR LESSON TODAY:

Except we become as a little loving and forgiving child, we cannot ENTER into the kingdom of Heaven.

The invitation is yours. Come NOW while we sing!

Is your heart free of EVERY SIN?