

**Forgiveness and Thankfulness:  
Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers  
Luke 17:1-19  
February 28, 2016**

**1) We have been forgiven.**

We have sinned against a holy and righteous creator, God. **God could have left us that way, but He did not.** He sent Jesus to die for our sins so that we can now have a relationship with God and be with Him forever.

A person is saved when they acknowledge their sin against God, call on Him for Salvation and follow Him. This is the repent and believe. Salvation is not a “one and done” prayer, rather it is a beginning point to where we walk with Jesus the rest of our days.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.* **Ephesians 1:7**

*By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* **Hebrews 10:10**

*As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.* **Psalm 103:12**

*For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

**Matthew 26:28**

**2) We have been forgiven of much, so we can forgive much.**

*Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.* **Luke 17:3-4**

In another account we see Jesus saying to forgive your brother seventy times seven.

*Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.* **Ephesians 4:25-32**

The issue isn't how much is too much; the issue is I am to forgive, even if my forgiveness is not requested. If I wait for forgiveness to be asked, then there is something wrong in my heart and I will carry around baggage for possibly a long time.

How much sin for us that we committed was too much for God to forgive us? On the cross did Jesus say, "Well, I know how much they are going to sin and sometimes they will fall back into it, so I will exclude them."

If we choose not to forgive we are saying God can forgive me for all my failures, but I can't forgive someone else. One of two things is true and that is I have never truly experienced God's forgiveness or I have been walking around as a mean, bitter, unforgiving and potentially hateful person. If the latter is the case, then my relationship with God will be stunted.

**3) When we forgive, we are doing what God has called us to do, we are being an obedient servant of the Lord.**

Luke 17:6-10 – When we forgive another person we are simply following God and His Word. We definitely need God to do this in us. I encourage us to stop using these and similar statements:

- I won't forgive
- You don't know what has been done to me
- If you were in my shoes
- I will never get over this
- I have a right to be angry and not forgive

We have a right to death and hell, but God gave us Heaven and life in Him, therefore, we can share and pass it on to others.

**4) We should be thankful we have been healed (forgiven).**

Luke 17:11-19

Have you lost your thankfulness of your Salvation? Have you lost your joy? Are you content in Jesus?

*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

**Psalm 51:12**

If we are truly walking with God and in fellowship with Him, while we may at times get discouraged or beat down, when we think of what God has done for us, we can realize He is the Joy of our Salvation.

**Prayer Focus:**

- **Have you been forgiven by Jesus?**
- **Who do you need to forgive today? Who do you need to ask for forgiveness?**
- **Thank the Lord for His Salvation and if you have lost the joy, seek Him daily asking Him to restore it.**