

FORGIVENESS- THE HARD TASK

All humans are mistake makers. We are imperfect creatures, We sin against God, ourselves and others. Mistreatment is everywhere and all will experience it and with deal it to other selfishly.

If we are professing Christians those, we admit our faults but know we can be forgiven. This is what the Cross and the message of Jesus is all about. But Jesus also said, our forgiveness is contingent on our forgiving others. This is the tough part.

Jesus said that we pray for forgiveness as we forgive others. The parable of the unmerciful servant is a huge “wake up call” for our holding grudges or forgiving mistreatment.

The practice of forgiveness toward others, then, is based on our pre-forgiveness of our Father God. Paul said- “Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Eph 3:32

It is never easy to be forgiving to those who may have sinned against us. Somehow in the grace of God, if we will tarry in Gethsemane and recognize the tremendous price Jesus paid that we might experience forgiveness, we will find help to reach out to others who have brought injury. To be forgiving is then the price we must meet in order to receive forgiveness.

Forgiveness and Forgetfulness are not the same thing. Forgiveness must often be repeated over and over every time an injury is remembered. We cannot turn off our memory, but to hang on to those moments is self-destructive. We must resolve to try to return good for evil and not retreat into self-pity. We must not retaliate.

There is not doubt, human nature makes forgiveness of others a difficult, one of the hardest actions of a Christian. It is good that every time we meet at the Table remembering Jesus forgiveness weekly, we continue to forgive others and restore them, even as Christ restores us unto God.