I. FIRST, IS FORGIVENESS CONDITIONAL?

A. Are we obligated to forgive someone who isn’t sorry?
   1. First, forgiveness often requires more than sorrow.
   2. Second, forgiveness without repentance may invite future abuse.

B. There are reasons to forgive someone, even if they haven’t asked for it.
   1. For one thing, it’s what Jesus asks us to do—Mark 11:25
   2. Secondly, sometimes forgiving is the only thing we can do under certain circumstances. For example….
      a. What if they refuse to repent?
      b. What if they are unable to ask for forgiveness.

II. SECOND, DOES FORGIVENESS MEAN RECONCILIATION?

A. Sometimes yes because reconciliation is what we are supposed to do—John 13:35.

B. Reconciliation, though, isn’t always possible because it takes two—Romans 12:18.

C. Lewis Smedes, “The Art of Forgiving” says three things about forgiveness and reunion.
   1. First, it takes one person to forgive, but it takes two to be reunited.
   2. Second, we can forgive someone who never says they are sorry, but we cannot be truly reunited with someone who never says it.
   3. Third, we can forgive someone who hurts us, but unless we can trust them not to hurt us again, it’s impossible to be reunited.
III. THIRD, ARE WE EXPECTED TO FORGIVE AND FORGET?

A. Does God really forgive and forget?

1. Some scripture says He does—Psalms 103:12.

2. A better understanding of God’s forgetfulness, however, is found in Romans 4:7-8.

B. How am I supposed to forget that someone hurt me?”

1. One thing we can try is to refuse to remember it

2. Another thing we can try is to remember our own failures—Matthew 7:3.

3. Finally, we need to realize that healing memories takes time.