

Difficult Texts In The Bible

Forgiving Others

(Lk 23:34)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "Difficult Texts In The Bible"
 - a. Last week we talked about **Jn 8:2-11** "The Adulterous Woman."
 - b. Today we are going to look at **Lk 23:34** "Forgiving Others."
3. This is an interesting subject to say the least.
 - a. It runs the gamut from we must forgive everyone for everything to we cannot forgive anyone for anything.
4. There is a biblical truth though that we must strive to find and except when scrutinized to see if it is so.
 - a. With that in mind let us examine this idea of "Forgiving Others."

I. Contextual Criticism

- A. Here we have the crucifixion of Jesus Christ naturally
 1. Jesus is lead to the place called The Skull (translation), Calvary (Latin), or Golgotha (Greek).
 2. We see just after Jesus' statement they are casting lots for His garments.
- B. Jesus' statement
 1. Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.
 - i. There is more to this request then meets the eye.
- C. Facts about Jesus that we will need to understand
 1. First, Jesus is God.
 - i. **Jn 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 2. Second, Jesus could forgive sins on earth.
 - i. **Mk 2:10-11** "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.""
 - ii. **Ac 5:31** "Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."
 3. Third Jesus and the Father are in complete unity.
 - i. **Jn 17:21-22** "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one"
 4. Fourth Jesus is united with the Father because He did the Father's will.
 - i. **Jn 8:28-29** "Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.""

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5. Fifth, Jesus and the Father as one are bound by Their law ie They cannot sin.
 - i. **I Pt 1:16** "because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy.""
 - ii. **He 6:18** "that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us."

II. Are We To Forgive Others?

- A. This answer is quite simple really...YES!!!
 1. **Mt 6:14** "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
 2. **Mt 18:20-21** "Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."
 3. **Co 3:13** "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."
- B. We are to forgive our brother or sister if we don't God will not forgive us
 1. **Mt 6:15** "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
 2. **Mt 6:12** "And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors."

III. When Are We To Forgive Others?

- A. Here really is the question we should be asking ourselves
 1. It is easy to say, "if someone does something against me, I will simply forgive them."
 - i. Easy to say not always easy to do, but that might be for a reason.
- B. Remember those facts we talked about in point one...
 1. Jesus is God.
 2. Jesus could forgive sins on earth.
 3. Jesus and the Father are in complete unity.
 4. Jesus is united with the Father because He did the Father's will.
 5. Jesus and the Father as one are bound by Their law ie They cannot sin.
- C. What is required for forgiveness from God the Father when we are Christians?
 1. It is our repentance.
 - i. **I Jn 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - ii. **Ps 32:5** "I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin."
 2. It is not complicated we must repent to God.

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- D. If Jesus could forgive sins on earth without asking the Father to forgive them why didn't He?
1. The truth is because of the unity of the Godhead there is no Jesus forgiving and the Father not forgiving.
 - i. **Dt 6:4** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"
 2. Let us reexamine **Co 3:13**.
 - i. "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."
 - ii. How does Christ forgive us?
 - a. Hear, believe, "repent," confess, baptized, faithful life.
 - iii. How does Christ's blood continually forgive us?
 - a. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 - b. **I Jn 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."
 3. Notice the parallel to **Co 3:13**.
 - i. **Ep 4:32** "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."
 - a. God forgives us after repentance.
 - b. We are to forgive just as God does.
- E. So when are we to forgive others?
1. When they ask us to forgive them.
 - i. **Lk 17:3-4** "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 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."
- F. What does this not mean...
1. This doesn't mean we are mean to those that sin against us until they repent.
 - i. **Lk 6:27a** "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies..."
 2. This doesn't mean we cannot talk with those that have not repented.
 - i. **Ga 6:1** "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."
 - a. **Mt 18:15-20**
 3. This doesn't mean we hold grudges until we repent.
 - i. **Lk 6:27b-31** "...do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise."

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CONCLUSION

1. Joshua Loth Liebman once said "We achieve inner health only through forgiveness - the forgiveness not only of others but also of ourselves."
2. No one here or many in the church would say God is not loving when He doesn't forgive one without repentance.
 - a. This is because God is love.
 - b. However if we forgive with one not asking for forgiveness have we not tried to place ourselves in a "more love" position than God.
 - i. Brothers and sisters this cannot be so.
3. Let us hold to the biblical pattern on every account that God has so graciously given us.
4. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**