

## BBC 6/8/25 Home Bible Study - Complexity, Simplicity, & Necessity of... "Forgiveness" - Isaiah 53:4-6

Forgiveness is not granted in a vacuum. Forgiveness requires payment for coverage of offense-debt. Forgiveness is a complex issue. For God to forgive man's sin, He had to procure a sinless substitute, to willingly take upon himself 'many' sinners' debts (*all sins of all who in every generation have ever lived*). As complex a process it is, there is simplicity in receiving forgiveness; by simple humble trusting faith. Forgiveness is absolutely necessary and totally essential for all men to have right standing with God. There are 3 aspects of Forgiveness: **1) Forgiving others**; **2) Asking forgiveness**; **3) Receiving forgiveness**

**1) Forgiving others:** Forgiving others is a basic requirement for one to himself receive forgiveness.

- Jesus clearly taught this in the 'Lord's Prayer' ([Matthew 6:12](#)), and elsewhere ([Mark 11:25-26](#)).
- Paul also emphasized this point ([Ephesians 4:32](#)); God desires to forgive us, for Christ's sake!
- Peter asked if seven times to forgive someone was sufficient; Jesus said 70x7! ([Matthew 18:21-22](#))
- If we fail or refuse to forgive, we add to ourselves the needless pain of resentments & bitterness.

Discussion: *In the parable Jesus taught in [Matt. 18:23-35](#); 1 Talent equaled 6,000 pence. What points was Jesus emphasizing concerning the importance of forgiveness in this teaching?*

**2) Asking forgiveness:** God has already provided forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. [Isaiah 53:4-6](#) informs us that Jesus has already fully & with finality borne our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our transgressions, was bruised for our iniquities, healed us by His stripes, and that, "the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"!! Yet some fail to avail themselves of God's provision! Unbelief carries an attitude of rejection, rebellion, self-sufficiency, no need for God, & indeed; ignorance. [James 4:2](#) reminds us of Jesus' teaching ([Matt. 7:7-8](#)), that we don't receive because we don't ask! Believers who fail to humble themselves before God in repentance, are just as bad in pride & arrogance. [1 John 1:6-10](#) suggests that if we claim to have no sin, we're liars, & make God a liar who says we do! Asking God for forgiveness is an act of believing faith, asking Him to apply to 'me' what He's provided. Even when we may not be directly guilty, we can intercede by taking ownership of a greater offense.

Discussion: *If God has already fully provided forgiveness, why does God require for us to ask Him?*

**3) Receiving forgiveness:** We can make receiving forgiveness more complicated than it actually is. Obstacles we allow the Enemy to place before us may be: Unbelief; Unworthiness; or a Sin too great.

Unbelief is rooted in rebellious pride ([Proverbs 16:18](#)), which is the very sin of Lucifer ([Isaiah 14:11-16](#)).

- Jesus warned in [John 3:18-20](#) that unbelievers are already under condemnation because of their refusal to believe, their love of darkness, and resistance to being reproved for their evil deeds.
- Unbelief is not the "unpardonable sin," but it has the same final outcome of perdition!

Unworthiness – Often we judge others, and even ourselves, with a harsher standard than God's!

- Some of us can even forgive others more readily than we forgive ourselves for our own failures. People who had strict parents, or have gone through a divorce, bankruptcy, prosecution, lost jobs, etc., can be very hard on themselves, bringing unnecessary guilt, depression, loss of confidence.
- Paul admonishes us to give no "place" to (*opportunity to be influenced by*) the Devil ([Ephesians 4:27](#)).
- In [Acts 10:15](#) God told Peter not to call "common" (or 'unclean') what He has cleansed (*forgiven*).
- God chastised Job ([Job 38:2](#); [40:1-8](#)) for his self-righteousness that surpassed God's judgments!

Sin too great – If unaware of his lies, we can allow Satan to convince us we're beyond redemption. Let's look at some egregious offenses against God and his servants, that seem beyond forgivable...

- [Acts 16:19-31](#) – For obediently serving God, Paul & Silas were mobbed, arrested, and severely beaten with "many stripes" (*brutally whipped*), and jailed by the local Philippian authorities. The warden locked Paul & Silas in the deepest dungeon of the prison with their feet bound in stocks. But when God moved, the jailer humbled himself and asked "*what must I do to be saved?*" Paul's answer was, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*"
- [Matthew 27:22-26](#); [Acts 2:23,36-39](#) – When Peter preached to the Jews who had said to let Jesus' blood be on them & their children; and under conviction asked "*Men & brethren, what shall we do?*" Peter's answer was: "*Repent and be baptized every one of you*" for the remission of your sins.

Discussion: *If even those who cursed themselves with Christ's blood had opportunity, do we?*