

## Friday

Read Luke 23:26–43. How does it impact you to read about Jesus' cry of forgiveness on the cross?

If Christians are to be followers of Christ, and live like Him, then what does this imply about the way you and I are to act toward those who mistreat us?

Why is this difficult?

Read Colossians 3:13. How am I to forgive, and why, according to this verse?

*Today ask God to help you become a person of radical forgiveness.*

## Saturday

*Today finish any devotions you may have missed and polish the memory verse for this week. Please pray that our church will be known as a place of radical forgiveness. Pray for the services on this Mother's Day weekend. Thanks!*

# Life Like Jesus

PART 4

## Forgiving Like Jesus

May 1 & 2, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

Jesus said, "Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they are doing."

*Luke 23:34a (NIV)*

Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**"

*Matthew 26:28*

Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus

"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." *Matthew 5:44*

Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ of followers of Jesus

While they were stoning him, Stephen . . . fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." *Acts 7:59a–60a*

### Why should I forgive like Jesus?

#### 1. Because \_\_\_\_\_

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." *Matthew 18:21–22 (See John 20:22–23)*

#### 2. Because \_\_\_\_\_

Be . . . **quick to forgive** an offense. **Forgive** as quickly and completely as **the Master forgave you.** *Colossians 3:13 (The Message)*

#### 3. Because \_\_\_\_\_

"**Forgive us** our debts, **as we also have forgiven our debtors.** . . . For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." *Matthew 6:12–15*

## How do I forgive like Jesus?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him . . .” *Mark 11:25a*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **for the people who hurt me**  
“I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” *Matthew 5:44*
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **to God**  
When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. *1 Peter 2:23*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **to help me**  
“If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” *Luke 17:4–5*
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **how God forgave me**  
*See story in Luke 7:36–50* “... he who has been forgiven little loves little.” *Luke 7:47*

## Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

### Monday

Read Matthew 18:21–35. Offenders in Jesus' day were forgiven up to three times. Religious teachers of his day taught that a fourth offense didn't need to be forgiven. With that in mind, how do you suppose Christ's initial hearers responded to this teaching?

How do you feel about this teaching?

- \_\_\_ Jesus must be exaggerating
- \_\_\_ If I did this, people would just walk all over me
- \_\_\_ If I forgave, the offenders would win
- \_\_\_ I feel confused: Does that mean I am to let people hurt me again and again?
- \_\_\_ Other:

How can you forgive someone repeatedly and yet not encourage irresponsibility?

How does God forgive you yet not encourage irresponsibility?

*Thank God today for His forgiveness. Ask God to help you forgive and not bear grudges.*

### Tuesday

Look at the final points and verses of the outline under “How do I forgive?” Which points are hardest for you?

Which are easiest?

*Today, take some extra time to pray through those steps very specifically as it relates to people you need to forgive: Perhaps a family member, or friend, or a figure from your past... or maybe even yourself.*

### Wednesday

Read Psalm 103:1–11. When trying to forgive, it's helpful to see how much we've been forgiven. According to this passage, in what ways does the Lord show you kindness?

How does understanding this help you extend forgiveness to others?

*Read Luke 7:36–50. Today spend some time in prayer emulating this woman: Love and worship Jesus for the way He loves you and forgives you of your sin.*

### Thursday

Read Hebrews 12:15. What kind of root does this verse refer to?

Have you ever had roots — or some invasive plant — in your yard get out of control and become destructive? What happened?

How have you seen bitterness act like a root in your life?

What are the effects of the root of bitterness?

If bitterness is so destructive, why do we sometimes nurture it?

How can a root of bitterness be “pulled up”?

*Thank God today that He is never bitter or grudge-holding! Ask God to reveal to you any “roots of bitterness” in your soul. Ask Him to help pull them up!*



“I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”  
*Matthew 5:44*