

[A Special Topical Study](#) **“The Cost of Forgiveness”**

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What did the Zen Buddhist monk say to the hot dog vendor?

“Make me one with everything”

In the punch line to that very bad joke, **“Make me one with everything...”** is the answer the life’s quest for every human being.

- ☞ **How can** a human being find peace in this life?
- ☞ **How can we find peace** that comes from knowing that you are one with your creator.
- ☞ **How can we know** that when we die, we know for certainty that we will go to heaven and have eternal life?

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

The Bible says that eternal life, finding peace and becoming one with your creator, is found by first experiencing forgiveness from God...

- ☞ **Now here** is where it becomes really interesting, because God’s definition of forgiveness is much different from our definition of forgiveness.

The definition of human forgiveness is to forgive a person for a penalty that they deserve.

- ☞ **When someone** hurts or offends us, we make a conscious decision to let go of our hurt feelings and anger and allow this person to continue to be our friend.

The Definition of God’s forgiveness is “To carry forth the penalty that is deserved.”

- ☞ **The Bible says** that *“The soul that sins will die”*

Ezekiel 18:4

“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die

According to the Bible, every person every born has sinned and is therefore worthy of having the death penalty carried out against them by God.

- ☞ **The “Good News”** is that the Bible also says that “God was not willing that we should have this penalty carried out against us.”

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance.

- ☞ **So The Father** devised a way that He could punish His Son instead of us, so that we could go free.

When Jesus died, He was paying the penalty that all of us deserved for our sins.

- ☞ **But here** is what is very interesting: The Father did not simply forgive the penalty that we deserved, He punished His son instead of punishing us.
- ☞ **God had said** that “*The soul that sins will die...*”
- ☞ **So He could not** just simply let go of the sins we committed, like we do when someone sins against us, the Father carried out the punishment He promised.
- ☞ **If the Father** did not punish sin as He said He would, He would not be Righteous and Just.

But instead of punishing us, He punished Jesus.

Matthew 26:28

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Hebrews 9:22

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

This is why no person can be saved apart from the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

- ☞ **Only Jesus death** on the Cross satisfied the righteous requirement of God’s Law.
- ☞ **Only when** you put your complete trust in what Jesus did for you, are you saved.

Your choice is to either believe it and be saved, or not believe it and be lost.

Acts 10:43

To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes** in Him will receive remission of sins.”

This idea of “Remission of Sins” is very different from the kind of human forgiveness we give to another person when they offend us.

The “**Remission of Sins**” means to have a penalty paid for the sins.

- ☞ **Whoever believes** in Jesus death and Resurrection for their sins receives from God the removal of every sin they have ever committed.

☞ **In reality**, it is as if they had never sinned EVER!

But how does this happen? How can our record of wrong be erased by Jesus dying for us?

☞ **By Jesus dying** and paying the penalty for us.

Hebrews 9:22

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.**

When Jesus died, He was not dying for something that He had done He was dying for everything that you have done!

☞ **You are forgiven** because Jesus took the penalty you deserved.

Once this truth gets down deep into your heart, it will drastically affect every part of your life.

☞ **All guilt** should be gone.

☞ **You should have a tremendous self worth**, because the God of the Universe loved you so much that He allowed His only Son to die for you.

☞ **You should be able to easily forgive** all other sins committed against you by other people.

☞ **You should have a deeply humble** attitude about yourself.

If we find that any of these 4 things are missing from our life, then it may be because we have not yet fully understood what Jesus has done for us.

Jesus gave an example of these four things:

Number one: All guilt should be gone.

John 8

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was **caught in adultery**, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, **being convicted by their conscience**, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “**Neither do I condemn you;** go and sin no more.”

Jesus condemned the sin, but not the person.

*“Neither do I condemn YOU”, **BUT He condemned the sin...**” *Go and Sin no more!*”*

When we feel guilty, it is because we have not had our guilt discharged yet.

- ⊕ **When we understand** that we have been forgiven by Jesus for everything we have ever done, then all of our guilt should be gone.
- ⊕ **If we find** that we still feel guilty, it may be that we have not fully accepted the fact that our sins have been paid for by Jesus sacrifice.

Jesus said that He does not condemn you for your sins when you come to Him for forgiveness, this knowledge should set us free from the guilt we feel from committing sin.

Many of the mental illnesses that people suffer from today can be traced back to guilt for past mistakes.

- ⊕ **When a human being** commits wrong over and over again, there is a build up of guilt.
- ⊕ **When this guilt** becomes too much for the persons emotions to bear, then they develop psycho semantic symptoms.

Symptoms such as depression, anxiety, multiple personalities, and many others, I believe personally, are linked to a failure to deal properly with past guilt.

I listened to an interview of Jeffrey Dahmer from his prison cell where he described the fact that he had never been told that there was a God to whom we were all accountable.

- ⊕ **Because he believed** that there was no God, no one to whom we were accountable for our actions, we could do whatever we wanted to do.
- ⊕ **What Jeffrey Dahmer** did not count on was the fact that as a result of all of his actions, he inflicted upon himself untold guilt for his actions.
- ⊕ **While in prison** someone explained the good news of Jesus Christ to him and he realized that all that there is one God to whom all of us are accountable for our actions.
- ⊕ **He realized** that all the guilt that had built up inside of himself, was due to the penalty for these actions having not been carried out.

- ☞ **He accepted Jesus Christ** offer of forgiveness for all his sins, and for the first time in his life experienced a removal of the guilt and real peace in his life.
- ☞ **If a person can understand** that Jesus has completely removed all of wrong that we have done, then many times this knowledge can bring tremendous healing to their mind.

The Second thing a true knowledge of what Jesus has done for you should do for your life is that, You should have a tremendous self-worth.

A lack of self worth or “Self Esteem”, is when a person sees them self as not worthy of love, attention of value in this life.

Again , this can be traced back to past failures.

1. **Either their own past failures**, have build up inside their heart and have made them feel worthless. OR
2. **Past failure by other people in their life**, committed against them, where others have told this person repeatedly that they are worthless, or have made them feel like a failure.

There is also what we call “a false sense of self worth” where a person acts as if they are not worth anything, to draw attention to themselves.

The Bible teaches that you were loved by God so much, that He allowed His only Son to come to earth, become a baby, grow up and become a man, then die for all of your sins.

- ☞ **If the Father** did not love you as much as He loved His only Son, He would not have allowed Jesus to come and die for you!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- ☞ **So IF You don't feel worthy?** God saw you as so worthy, that He allowed Jesus to die for you.
- ☞ **You don't feel loved?** God loved you so much, He allowed Jesus to died for you.
- ☞ **You don't feel like you are good enough?** You don't have to be good enough, Jesus was good enough for you.

Matthew 13:44

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and **for joy over it** he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

- ☞ **You** are the treasure.
- ☞ **The Field** is the Earth.

- ☞ **The man** who found the treasure is Jesus.
- ☞ **Jesus** gave up his power as God, His position, His Glory, so that He could humble Himself and become a servant to you to die for your sins.

Don't miss the last part of verse 44, "**For Joy over You, Jesus gave up all He had...**"

Matthew 13:44

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and **for joy over it** he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross

The "**Joy that was before Jesus**" was the knowledge that when He did take upon Himself all of your sins and PAY for them, that you would be able to live with Him forever in the Glory of His Kingdom.

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it **something He would Hold on to**, to be equal with God,

7 but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Can you imagine that?

The God of the whole Universe set aside for a time some of His power, some of His knowledge, some of His glory, so that He could become just like you and take your place at the judgment of sins.

Examples of Jesus setting aside His Omniscience, his knowledge of everything:

Matthew 24:36

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only

Jesus in the context of this verse in Matthew 24:36, is speaking of the Rapture of the church, that one day in all of history when He would come from heaven and remove all those who believe in Him, from the earth, before the final 7 year Tribulation period of the earth.

When asked about the timing of this event, Jesus said, at that point in time, that He didn't know when it would happen...

- ☞ **Now, one of the qualities of God** is that He knows everything, there is nothing that has happened or will happen that takes Him by surprise.
- ☞ **We call this ability**, “Omniscience”, the ability to know all things.

We know that in various other places, Jesus confirms the fact that He is God, the creator of the Universe.

- ☞ **And yet, here in verse 36 of Matthew 24**, Jesus speaks of one of the most important events in all of human history and says that **He doesn't know when** it was going to happen.
- ☞ **How can** this be?
- ☞ **Because when Jesus said that He didn't know**, He was in the position of being a servant to all of us, setting aside some of his glory, knowledge and power as God.
- ☞ **After Jesus was crucified** and rose from the dead, you can be assured that this knowledge of everything was restored to Him.
- ☞ **Today Jesus knows** the exact hour He will come for us at the Rapture.

So, why did Jesus set aside his ability to know everything as God?

- ☞ **Jesus was demonstrating** for us what it is to become a servant to someone else.
- ☞ **Jesus set aside for a time**, some of his power as God, so that He could BECOME your servant and die for your sins.
- ☞ **A correct knowledge** of these facts of how greatly you are valued by God and Loved by Him, should give you great self worth.
- ☞ **The God** of the Universe Loves You!
- ☞ **He died** for you!
- ☞ **He is coming again** FOR YOU!

So we don't get our self worth from what other people think about us, or from that the world says about us, we get our sense of worth in this life from the fact that Jesus died for us, because He values us so much.

The third point this morning in our study of the Cost of Forgiveness, is that because you understand HOW MUCH Jesus has forgiven you of and how much it cost Him to forgive you, that now it should be a very small thing for us to forgive what other people have done to us.

Matthew 18

23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him **ten thousand talents.**

25 But as **he was not able to pay**, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, “Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

27 Then **the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.**

28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants **who owed him** a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

30 And **he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.**

31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, “**You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.**

33 **Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?**

34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, **from his heart**, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Here is the Bottom Line with these verse in Matthew 18:

1. You and I owed to God, a debt for our sins that was so astronomically great, that we could never repay it.
2. When we came to God in Jesus name and asked Him to forgive us, HE DID.
3. IF we truly have a deep inner sense of how great our sin is, and how much it cost Jesus to forgive that sin, then we should find that it is very easy to forgive others for what they do to us.

If we find that we cannot easily forgive others, then we need to go back and re visit exactly what it is that Jesus has done for us when He died for us.

Once we have a deep understanding of what it cost Jesus, and just how much we have been forgiven of, then we will find it much easier to forgive other people for what they do to us.

Finally: the fourth thing that should drastically affect our life and our heart is:

We should feel a deep sense of humility and brokenness, once we have seen Jesus hanging there on the Cross for us, taking our place.

☞ **Knowing that** it was our sin that placed Jesus on the Cross.

We should never again think of ourselves as being better than someone else who doesn't yet know about Jesus Christ.

☞ **There is no difference** between us and the worst of sinners, except that we have come to a knowledge of what He has done for us.

We should never again be prideful about our accomplishments.

- ☞ **Knowing now that every step of our life** has been by the hand of the Lord and by His power, Grace and Love, and not our own.

Finally, We should begin to want to be the kind of servant to others that Jesus has become to us.

- ☞ **Jesus said it** like this:

Luke 22:25-27

25 ... “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’

26 **But not so among you;** on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the One who serves.**

Is the servant greater than the master?

- ☞ **If you have chosen** to accept and follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior, are you greater than Jesus?
- ☞ **Jesus said** that the greatest in His eyes, is the one that humbles himself and serves others.

Serve how? By making it possible for other people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, that is the highest calling of the one who knows Jesus.

How can we make it easier for others to know Jesus?

- ☞ **When you come here** on Wednesday or Sunday and greet the new people that have come and make them feel loved and welcome, you are standing in Jesus place, representing Him.
- ☞ **When you encourage** and pray for the people who come to church here, you participate in their salvation, by making it easier for them to know Jesus.
- ☞ **When you help us** keep the building and facility clean, you help create an environment that makes it easier for people to know Jesus.
- ☞ **When you give** your tithe and offerings to the Lord, you provide the finances for us to continue ministry here.
- ☞ **When you teach** the children in Sunday School or assist a teacher in Sunday School, you are helping a little child know Jesus, there is no greater calling that this.
- ☞ **When you participate** in the worship team, play and sing, you are helping prepare the hearts of the people to receive the Word of God, so that they can know Jesus deeper.
- ☞ **When you tell other people** what Jesus has done for you and what He means to you in your life, you are making Jesus know and fulfilling the purpose you were created for.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, Paul describes for us what the Rapture will feel like in our bodies:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—
52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed

In that same context, of knowing that at any moment the Rapture can happen, Paul closes that Chapter with this:

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

It is important to remember that Jesus can come for us at any moment...

- ☞ **Until that happens**, we still have a lot to do here.
- ☞ **To make** Jesus know.
- ☞ **To serve Him** with all of our hearts.
- ☞ **And to Remember** what Jesus did for us at the Cross.
- ☞ **To remember** what the cost of our forgiveness was...

Communion...