

# Learning To Forgive

(2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:16-23)

- Introduction:
1. Few things are as practical as learning the grace of forgiveness.
  2. (Matthew 18:21-35).
  3. It takes a great deal of strength and maturity to forgive.
  4. Yet, if we want to be the recipients of God's forgiveness, we must learn to forgive others.
  5. Let's examine several lessons concerning forgiveness.

## I. Initial Thoughts On Forgiveness

- A. We sometimes extend less than what we should and call it forgiveness.
  1. Conditional - I'll forgive if...
  2. Probational - Bring it up again.
  3. Partial - I'll forgive but not forget.
  4. Delayed - Give me time.
- B. When we refuse to forgive as God wishes, we begin down a spiral that takes us from God – Offense...Resentment...Hatred...Revenge.

## II. Example Of Forgiveness

- A. (2 Samuel 16:5-10).
- B. (2 Samuel 19:16-23).

## III. Practical Suggestions For Forgiveness

- A. Have compassion on your offender (Romans 12:17-21; Matthew 5:44).
- B. Separate the sinner from the sin (Romans 7:17; Psalm 27:7).
- C. Confront your offender (Matthew 18:15-17).
- D. Recall times when you, yourself, needed forgiveness (Romans 2:1).
- E. View it through the eyes of faith.
- F. Remember it is an ongoing battle (1 Kings 2:8-9).

- Conclusion:
1. Maybe you have some "Shimei's" in your life.
  2. If you haven't yet forgiven, then where are you in your descent away from God?
    - a. Offense?
    - b. Resentment?
    - c. Hatred?
    - d. Revenge?
  3. Remember the words of Jesus (Matthew 18:34).