

THE EVIDENCE OF FORGIVENESS

(Mark 16:7)

- Introduction:
1. Forgiveness is a central theme within Christianity.
 2. We have all struggled with trying to extend forgiveness to others, while also laboring to receive it ourselves.
 3. (Matthew 18:35) Our forgiveness depends on how we forgive.
 4. This lesson is intended to give us advice that will help us learn to forgive.

I. JESUS AND FORGIVENESS

- A. We have an example of a disciple of Jesus that needed Jesus' forgiveness.
- B. (Mark 14:27-31).
 1. Peter boldly stated that he would not forsake Jesus.
 2. He declared that he would die rather than deny Jesus.
- C. (Mark 14:66-72).
 1. Peter did deny the Lord.
 2. Jesus turned and looked at Peter (Luke 22:61).
 3. Convicted, guilt ridden, and ashamed, Peter left the presence of Jesus and wept bitterly.
- D. Here is a man who needs forgiveness, and received forgiveness (Acts 2:14).
- E. But what were the steps of his reconciliation? How did Jesus evidence His forgiveness to Peter?

II. THE EVIDENCE OF FORGIVENESS

- A. ***A Desire For The Person Is Made Known.***
 1. (Mark 16:7) "Go tell the disciples, and Peter..."
 2. No doubt, Peter would not have included himself among the disciples at this time, but the angel's words left no doubt in his mind that he was still wanted.
 3. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we evidence to them our love and desire for them, or do we leave them wondering?
- B. ***The Person Is Included Socially.***
 1. (John 21:1-14).
 - a. Jesus appeared to His disciples and prepared a meal for them.
 - b. Peter was socially included and invited with the rest of the disciples.
 2. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we evidence our forgiveness by including them socially?
- C. ***The Difficult Issues Are Discussed Privately.***
 1. (John 21:15-20).
 - a. After eating, Jesus walked alone with Peter, discussing their relationship.
 - b. It is here that things are mended - Peter is humbled.
 2. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we discuss those issues

with the privately?

D. ***Trust Was Demonstrated By Conferring Responsibility Upon Him.***

1. (John 21:15-17).
 - a. Feed my sheep.
2. Jesus restored Peter's vision and verbalized His belief in his ability to effectively minister.
3. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we help restore their vision, helping them to see the good they can perform in God's kingdom?

- Conclusion:
1. Here we have an example of one who forgave, and how his forgiveness was evidenced.
 2. We would all do well to follow our Lord's example.
 3. Begin today by building bridges of reconciliation.