



BLIND ————— i just can't

A NEW PATH OF FORGIVENESS

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth,'³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person.

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." *Matthew 5:38-42*

THE SICKNESS OF BITTERNESS

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Hebrews 12:14-15

A STORY OF BITTERNESS

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?"²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.²⁶ The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.²⁸ But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.²⁹ His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.³⁵ This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:21-35

WARNING

When unforgiveness becomes a pattern in our relationships, we become alienated from God and others – turning us into small, lonely, bitter and broken people. It also begins to define us as we're slowly shaped into the kind of people we DON'T want to become.

JUST TO BE CLEAR

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. *Ephesians 4:31-32*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. *Colossians 3:12-15*

NEXT STEPS

- *Have I allowed unforgiveness to gain a foothold in my heart?*
- *Will this lead me where I want to go?*
- *Will this make me who I want to be?*
- *Is this how my Rabbi has taught me to live?*

for further study (available at the JW Bookstore)

Forgive and Forget -- Lewis Smedes

The Gift of Forgiveness -- Charles Stanley

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