

Forgiven!

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and **he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:6-9

The Need

- A. Everyone hearing or reading this sermon is a sinner by three ways in two directions.
- B. God is holy, and His holiness like brilliant sunlight exposes all yours sins (Is 6:1-7).
- C. You, your thoughts, your intents, your secrets, and your desires are all naked to Him.
- D. God, unlike cotton-candy caricatures, hates sin and sinners (Ps 5:5; 11:5; Pr 6:16-19).
- E. God cannot acquit or clear sinners, because He is just and righteous (Ex 34:7; Na 1:3).
- F. God holds your breath, your life, your wellbeing, and your eternal destiny in His hand.
- G. God is sending Jesus Christ very soon to judge you and all others for ever secret thing.
- H. God is not moved at all by you, like others are, at the pain of your damnation for sin.
- I. Adam and all descendants die three ways for his sin ... He still cursed both parents!
- J. Though all men must die three ways ... He yet drowned a whole generation fearfully!
- K. Because Pharaoh was proud and denied Israel's departure, God demolished all Egypt!
- L. Because Moses' got angry and smote the rock, he was absolutely denied into Canaan!
- M. Because Achan took spoils, God killed 36 men and had his family stoned and burned!
- N. Because the Philistines took His ark, He destroyed them with hemorrhoids and mice!
- O. Because the Jews killed the Son and apostles, He sent the greatest tribulation and ruin!
- P. Because two Jerusalem church members fudged about their giving, God killed them!
- Q. Because Herod Agrippa I had killed James, God killed him and had worms eat him!
- R. Because of His plan for formal and final sentencing, a great day of judgment comes!
- S. Do not let the pretty sky, beautiful day, and any good health deceive your foolish soul!
- T. The God of dreadful wrath and terrible damnation is active this day and coming soon!
- U. Every sin of yours, and there are many, are fresh in His mind and written in His book!
- V. You are absolutely in greater trouble and facing more painful consequences than ever!

The Examples

- A. *David*, guilty of aggravated adultery and calculated murder, was forgiven instantly!
 - 1. This in spite of the fact David had just condemned a man to death for a mere lamb!
 - 2. This in spite of the fact his sins, adultery and murder, had one sentence – death!
 - 3. This in spite of the fact he was guilty of several other sins recorded in the Bible.
 - 4. If you get foolish and fuss about Absalom, why did he get hung in a tree for Joab?
 - 5. If you get foolish and fuss about the dead child, why did he quickly get Solomon?
 - 6. Consider also David got the widow and had four living children, including Nathan.
 - 7. But never, never forget that David repented for that sin like you have not repented.
- B. *Manasseh*, the worst king of Judah, humbled himself and was forgiven and restored!

- C. *Mary*, or whatever name the sinner woman bore, was forgiven and honored before all!
- D. *Zacchaeus*, known for his greed and corruption, was forgiven immediately that day!
- E. *Peter*, failing twice in important situations, was forgiven and retained as a key apostle!
- F. *Saul of Tarsus*, persecuting and killing Christians, was forgiven as an example to you!

The Basis

- A. Know one thing for sure, forgiveness is not because you are a little good or a lot good.
- B. Know another thing, forgiveness is not because you can at all explain why you sinned.
- C. Know another thing, God does not care if parents, spouse, children, or others like you.
- D. Know another thing, God does not care if parents, spouse, or others have abused you.
- E. Know another thing, God does not care how deprived or poor you were born in life.
- F. Know another thing, God does not care how much or little you have accomplished.
- G. Know another thing, God does not care how many respect you or how much they do.
- H. Know what God thinks of all your righteousnesses – they are filthy menstrual rags.
- I. Know this! God will have mercy and compassion on whom He will (Rom 9:15-16)!
- J. Know this! There is no part of His nature or obligation in the universe to forgive you!
- K. Know this! You do not deserve forgiveness, but you do deserve much eternal torment!
- L. Get this fact! God chose to forgive you before the foundation of the world by name!
- M. Get this fact! God sent His only begotten Son to die for you so He could forgive you!
- N. Get this fact! God will declare your forgiveness to the universe from the book of life!
- O. Get this fact! The practical phase of forgiveness to restore fellowship only needs you!
- P. You must respond right! You must confess your sins to God (Job 33:27-28; I Jn 1:9).
- Q. You must respond right! You must repent His way (II Cor 7:11; Psalm 34:18; 51:17).
- R. Grasp the gospel! Your forgiveness is free – to you – for God Himself made payment.
- S. Grasp the gospel! Your forgiveness is costly – to God – for He killed his own Son.
- T. Grasp the gospel! Blood was required – blood of life – from Adam to Abel to eternity.

The Meaning

- A. Forgiveness ... is to remove all condemnation, debt, guilt, and restitution for a crime.
- B. Forgiveness ... is to acquit, clear, and pardon a person for their crimes against you.
- C. Forgiveness ... is to know the offended party no longer considers you guilty at all.
- D. Forgiveness ... is to know all bitterness, grudges, resentment, and vengeance are gone.
- E. Forgiveness ... is to start all over again with a clean slate and no past to condemn you.
- F. God forgives ... by *not remembering* your sins any more (Is 43:25; Heb 8:12; 10:17).
- G. God forgives ... by *not making mention* of your many heinous sins (Ezek 18:21-23).
- H. God forgives ... by *purging* them away, which is a verb to purify or cleanse (Ps 65:3).
- I. God forgives ... by *blotting out*, which is to annihilate, obliterate, wipe out (Is 44:22).
- J. God forgives ... by *covering your sins* so that they cannot be seen or found (Ps 85:2).
- K. God forgives ... by *cleansing*, which is to wash, purify, and/or purge away (Jer 33:8).
- L. God forgives ... by *hiding his face from sins*, so that He cannot see them (Ps 51:9).
- M. God forgives ... by *hiding sins so that they cannot be found* and are not (Jer 50:20).
- N. God forgives ... by *pardon*, which is to clear the record of a person's sins (Mic 7:18).

- O. God forgives ... by *casting into depths of the sea*, which is deep and large (Mic 7:19).
- P. God forgives ... by *removing sins as far as the east is from the west* (Ps 103:8-12).
- Q. God forgives ... by *casting sins behind his back* – out of sight, out of mind (Is 38:17).
- R. God forgives ... by *putting an end to sin* as far as any consequence to you (Dan 9:24).
- S. God forgives ... by *making scarlet and red sins as white as snow or wool* (Is 1:18).
- T. God's forgiveness means ... you have full access to His throne for help (Heb 4:16).
- U. God's forgiveness means ... no double jeopardy in the future (Hebrews 10:10,12,14).
- V. God's forgiveness means ... He will walk with you, talk with you, help you any way.
- W. God's forgiveness means ... you may presume on Him for anything you really need.
- X. God's forgiveness means ... any self-loathing for sin implies He failed or lied to you.
- Y. Your future holds ... discovery of your sins from the books of works ... **Forgiven!**
- Z. Your future holds ... others being ordered away for sins just like yours ... **Forgiven!**

The Application

- A. Trust and practice **I John 1:9**, for it is totally true and has been fully paid by Jesus!
- B. Rightly grasp **Isaiah 55:8-9**, for God forgives infinitely better than even His David!
- C. Are you thankful? ... for such a gift from God is the best thing to ever happen to you!
- D. Are you fair? ... you love to hear these words of men: *I forgive you! Forget it! Smile!*
- E. Are you fearful? ... for forgiveness should lead to perfect fear of this God (Ps 130:4)!
- F. Are you zealous? ... for what would you not do for such a dear gift (II Cor 5:14)!
- G. Are you confident? ... you should attempt great things for God based on His pardon!
- H. Are you certain? ... for God considers this one of His glorious attributes (Ex 34:5-9)!
- I. Are you doubtful? ... why? so doing discredits God's faithfulness or Christ's death!
- J. Are you consistent? ... you must forgive those who sin against you a mere 100 pence!

Note:

The sin offering of Moses' Law and its blood requirement for forgiveness provides learning.

1. Read Lev 4:22-35 and 5:1-10 for a brief description of offerings for sins of ignorance.
2. Note that these requirements of blood are for *sins of ignorance*, known or unknown.
3. There was sufficient *guilt* from such sins of ignorance to require the shedding of blood.
4. He had to *lay his hands* on the animal's head, identifying it as his substitute for death.
5. He then had to *kill it* (without a gun), which would be a rather personal ending of life.
6. The blood would be distributed as a symbol, and the fat burned for a *sweet savor* to God.
7. By this process, sins of ignorance were forgiven under the Old Testament of God.

For Further Study:

1. Sermon outline ... *The Forgiveness of Sins (2)* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/forgiveness-of-sins-2.pdf>.
2. Sermon outline ... *Unsearchable Riches of Christ* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/unsearchable-riches.pdf>.
3. Sermon outline ... *The Forgiveness of Sins (1)* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/forgiveness-of-sins.pdf>.
4. Sermon outline ... *Forgiveness of a Great Sinner* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/forgiveness-of-a-great-sinner.pdf>.
5. Sermon outline ... *10,000 Talents* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/ten-thousand-talents.pdf>.
6. Sermon outline ... *Facets of Salvation* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/salvation/facets-of-salvation/sermon.php>.
7. Sermon outline ... *I Have Found a Ransom* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/ransom.pdf>.
8. Sermon outline ... *Starting Over* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/starting-over.pdf>.

9. Sermon outline ... *Abundant Pardon* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/abundant-pardon.pdf>.
10. Sermon outline ... *If We Confess Our Sins* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/if-we-confess-our-sins.pdf>.
11. Sermon outline ... *Repentance* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/repentance.pdf>.
12. Sermon outline ... *Jesus Came for Sinners* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/jesus-came-for-sinners.pdf>.
13. Sermon outline ... *Jesus Loves Losers* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/jesus-loves-losers.pdf>.
14. Sermon outline ... *Self-Righteousness* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/self-righteousness.pdf>.
15. Proverb commentary ... *Proverbs 28:13* ... http://www.letgodbetruer.com/proverbs/commentaries/28_13.php.