

Jesus Practiced and Taught Forgiveness

(Acts 1:1)

Introduction:

1. In this verse Luke referred to his "*former treatise*" [the Gospel of Luke] in which he wrote about "*all that Jesus began both to do and teach.*"
2. In our lesson we are examining what the Lord practiced as well as what He taught concerning "forgiveness."
3. Let us begin by pointing out how . . .

Discussion:

I. JESUS PRACTICED FORGIVENESS

- A. Jesus demonstrated His divine authority when He forgave sins during His ministry.
 1. He forgave the sins of the man afflicted with palsy (Luke 5:18-25).
 2. He forgave the sins of the woman who anointed His feet (Luke 7:36-50).
 3. He forgave the sins of the thief who was crucified with Him (Luke 23:42-43).
- B. Jesus practiced what He preached when He asked the Father to forgive those who crucified Him (Luke 23:34).
- C. In addition to practicing forgiveness, . . .

II. JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS ABOUT FORGIVENESS

- A. Jesus taught His followers:
 1. to ask God for forgiveness (Luke 11:1-4)
 2. to forgive each other.
 - a. Luke 17:3-4
 - b. Matthew 18:21-22
- B. Jesus showed that God's forgiveness is dependent upon the willingness of His followers to forgive each other.
 - a. Matthew 6:14-15
 - b. Matthew 18:23-35
 - 1) There are 3 main characters in this parable: a king and 2 servants.
 - a) One servant owed the king 10,000 talents, a debt he could not repay.
 - b) The other servant owed his fellow servant 100 pence, an insignificant debt.
 - 2) (vs.23) The king took account of his servants.
 - 3) (vs.24) The servant who owed 10,000 talents was brought before the king.
 - 4) (vs.25) Since he could not repay his debt, he, his family, and his possessions were to be sold.
 - 5) (vs.26) The servant asked the king for patience.
 - 6) (vs.27) The king's compassion led him to forgive the debt.
 - 7) (vs.28-30) This servant would not forgive his fellow servant who owed him 100 pence.
 - 8) (vs.31-34) After the king found out what happened, he punished the unforgiving servant.
 - 9) (vs.35) Jesus concluded by making His point very clear.

Conclusion:

1. This morning we studied passages that teach us about "kindness."
2. According to Ephesians 4:31-32, "kindness" and "forgiveness" are closely related.
3. As we endeavor to be followers of God as dear children, let us practice:
 - a. kindness
 - b. forgiveness.