

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people," for during that time we are bearing a grudge against that person because of the offense he committed against us, and we can't do that and, at the same time, have a right relationship with the Lord. If someone offends us then, we are to forgive that person at once. Then if that person comes to us later and says "I'm sorry" and asks for our forgiveness, we are to assure that person we have already forgiven him. Otherwise, we are disobeying Jesus' teaching in this passage.

Here then we see the frequency of forgiveness: that we are to forgive an unlimited number of times. Since this means we are to forgive all the offenses committed against us, no matter how many they are, when someone offends us, no matter how great that offense may seem to us, no matter how many times that person may have committed that same offense against us before, or whether the person who committed the offense comes to us and says "I'm sorry" and asks for our forgiveness or not, we are to forgive that person for it.

It all boils down to this - - we are not to hold anything against anybody at anytime.

*Third, the duty of forgiveness.*

We have a moral obligation to forgive the one who offends us. Why? Because of the rule of forgiveness in Christ's Kingdom which is "Because God has forgiven us the greater offenses we have committed against Him, we are under moral obligation to forgive others the lesser offenses they commit against us."

We have this rule given to us in verses 23-33 of this passage. In verse 23 Jesus says, "Therefore, "because we are to forgive an unlimited number of times, "is the Kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king". Then from the end of verse 23 through verse 33 Jesus proceeds to tell a story about that "certain King" in which He sets forth the rule of forgiveness in His Kingdom very clearly so the next time someone offends Peter and he wants to know <sup>u</sup>Whether or not he should forgive that person, he will