

Now we have looked at Jesus' teaching about forgiveness. We have seen the meaning of forgiveness: that we are to treat the one who offends us on a personal level just as though the offense had not been committed; the frequency of forgiveness; that we are to forgive an unlimited number of times which means we are to forgive all the offenses committed against us, no matter how many they are; the duty of forgiveness: that we have a moral obligation to forgive the one who offends us 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"; the manner of forgiveness: that we are to be sincere in our forgiveness; and the serious consequence of refusing to forgive: that the Lord will be angry with us and will chasten us until we give the forgiveness He requires.

Now let me ask you a question: has someone offended you and have you refused to forgive that person for it? If so, you are an unforgiving Christian, and you need to repent of your sin and ask the Lord to forgive you for it, and then you need to ask the Lord to enable you by the Holy Spirit to forgive the one who offended you, that is, to treat that person on a personal level just as though the offense had not been committed.

Corrie ten boom wrote a book entitled "The Hiding Place". In that book she told about an incident that took place in 1947 in Munich, Germany. She said she gave a talk there that year on the subject of forgiveness in the basement room of a church.

In that talk she said she used her favorite mental picture of forgiveness which was a picture of God taking our sins as we confess them