LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 176

Forgiveness flows from the Father through us

> *Love your enemies… and you will be children of your Father who is in heaven.*
> MATTHEW 5:44–45

Written by Bill Perkins

Jesus roots forgiveness
in identity
before He ever commands it.

We forgive
because of who we are—
children of the Father,
united with the Son,
indwelt by the Spirit.

In the Sermon on the Mount,
Jesus makes this clear:
the distinguishing mark
of the Father's children
is mercy
(Matt. 5:44–45; Luke 6:36).

Forgiveness is not
a moral achievement.
It is the family resemblance.

Forgiveness is like a child
learning the gait of his Father—
not by effort,
but by nearness.

Forgiveness is like water
flowing from a spring—
it carries water
from its source.

Forgiveness flows
from the Father's mercy,
and because we are
united to the Father through Jesus,
His mercy flows through us.

This is why, when Jesus says,
"If you forgive others…
your Father will forgive you"
(Matt. 6:14),
He is not teaching
that forgiveness is earned.

Forgiveness is freely given
to all who believe in Christ
(Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

But you may not know this about Jesus:
He teaches that unforgiveness
blocks the flow of the Father's mercy
into and through us.

Not because God withdraws it,
but because our unforgiveness
dams the flow
of God's forgiveness.

Unforgiveness
disrupts fellowship.
It clouds intimacy.
It contradicts
the life of Christ in us.

This is why the apostles
echo Jesus so closely:

"Forgive each other;
as the Lord has forgiven you"
(Col. 3:13).

"Be kind…
forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you"
(Eph. 4:32).

“Mercy triumphs
over judgment”
(James 2:13).

Identity first.
Obedience second.

Forgiveness is not a feeling.
Feelings rise and fall.
Identity does not.

Forgiveness is not
emotional readiness.
It is spiritual alignment.

It is acting
from who we already are
in Christ.

This is the shape
of the Father’s mercy
taking form
in His children.

It is the life of Christ
expressed
through those who belong to Him.