

When forgiveness feels impossible

Father, forgive them.

LUKE 23:34

Written by Bill Perkins

Forgiveness is impossible.

Not difficult.

Not a long process.

Not something you “work on.”

Impossible.

When someone has
betrayed you,
abandoned you,
humiliated you,
abused you,
or wounded you so deeply
that the wound feels open,
you cannot forgive them
from the heart.

You can say the words.

You can pray the prayer.

You can tell people you’ve moved on.

But the wound is too deep.

Too raw.

Too unforgettable.

Even to say “I forgive you”
feels insurmountable.

To actually forgive is
unimaginable.

And here’s the truth:

Unforgiveness is a stronghold.

It locks the heart.

It blocks freedom.
It keeps the wound alive.
It keeps the enemy close.

I've sat with people in deliverance.
I've watched chains fall.
I've watched strongholds break.
And the first step is always the same:

Identify every person who has wronged you.
Because without forgiveness,
freedom cannot come.

And when someone says,
"I can't forgive myself,"
I ask:

"So in the hierarchy of judges,
you're on the Supreme Court,
and God is a district judge?
You're saying that while God has forgiven you,
you overrule Him?"

And something shifts.
A paradigm breaks.
A heart opens.

Because forgiveness is not
something we produce.
Forgiveness is something
Christ produces in us.

And you may not know this about Jesus
He forgives in ways
we never would,
so He can forgive through us
in ways we never could—
because we share His life,
we share His Spirit,
we share His Father.

"I have been crucified with Christ,
and it is no longer I who live,
but Christ lives in me."
— Galatians 2:20

Over the next three months,
we're going to explore
everything Jesus taught
and modeled about forgiveness.

I believe it's why the Father sent Him.
It's at the heart of His words and deeds.
It is the essence of who Jesus is.

And only as we walk with Him daily
will His life in us produce forgiveness—
the kind of forgiveness that flows from His person,
His compassion,
His mercy,
His Spirit,
His heart.

His person in us.
His life through us.
His forgiveness becoming ours.