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## SATAN'S FAVORITE LIES: LIE #3 Some Things Can't Be Forgiven

### THE ANCIENT LIE

- Some things **God won't forgive!**
- Some things **we can't forgive!**
- Sometimes **we have to fight fire with fire.**

### THE TRUTH

#### About GOD'S FORGIVENESS

- ❶ Satan is the great **accuser.**  
Revelation 12:10 & Job 1-3
- ❷ Only one sin **is unforgivable.**  
Matthew 12:22-32
- ❸ God loves to **turn his enemies into friends & family.**  
Ezekiel 33:11, 14-15/ 1 Timothy 1:15-16/ Matthew 9:11-13

#### About FORGIVING OTHERS

- ❶ Forgiveness is not an **option**; it's a **requirement.**  
Matthew 6:12-15
- ❷ Forgiveness starts with a **look in the mirror.**  
Matthew 18:21-35/ Colossians 3:13
- ❸ Forgiveness is not pretending **nothing happened.**  
Jeremiah 31:34 & Genesis 7:24-8:1/ 2 Samuel 12:13-14

#### About OUR ENEMIES

- ❶ Evil for evil is always **a bad move.**  
Romans 12:17-18/ 1 Peter 2:21-23
- ❷ If they won't stop – ask God to **sic 'em!**  
Romans 12:19-21/ 1 Timothy 1:20 & 2 Timothy 4:14-15/ Luke 17:3-4/ Matthew 18:15-17

## Food for Thought

For the week of June 29, 2008

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. Remembering both God's incredible provision of forgiveness and our need for it can help us become more generous in the forgiveness of others. The following verses take us back to the basics. Stop and reflect on each one and underline any key principles. How can each one help us grow in our ability and/or motivation to forgive?

### Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all. [NIV]

### Isaiah 59:1-3

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save,  
nor his ear too dull to hear.  
[2] But your iniquities have separated  
you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you,  
so that he will not hear.  
[3] For your hands are stained with blood,  
your fingers with guilt.  
Your lips have spoken lies,  
and your tongue mutters wicked things. [NIV]

### Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.  
[7] Let the wicked forsake his way  
and the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon. [NIV]

### Jeremiah 33:6-9

" Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. [7] I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. [8] I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. [9] Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.' [NIV]

### Colossians 3:12-15

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [NIV]

2. We heard this weekend that it's never right to return "evil for evil" and seek our own revenge. That's easy to say, but hard to do because it can leave us feeling like the other person "got away with it." What can we learn from David's actions in 1 Samuel 24:1-13?

### **1 Samuel 24:1-13**

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." [2] So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats.

[3] He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. [4] The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

[5] Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. [6] He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." [7] With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

[8] Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. [9] He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? [10] This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the Lord's anointed.'" [11] See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. [12] May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. [13] As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. [NIV]

How does Psalm 139:17-24 help you balance forgiveness with asking God to "sic 'em"?

### **Psalm 139:17-24**

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
[18] Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand.  
When I awake,  
I am still with you.

[19] If only you would slay the wicked, O God!  
Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!  
[20] They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.  
[21] Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord,  
and abhor those who rise up against you?  
[22] I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.

[23] Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
[24] See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting. [NIV]

What is the most challenging aspect for you when it comes to not seeking your own justice or revenge?

3. Forgiving others frees us from the baggage that we pick up when we are unforgiving. Read Ephesians 4:30-31. Do you see any evidence or symptoms of a lack of forgiveness in your own life toward others or yourself?

### **Ephesians 4:30-31**

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31] Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [NIV]

How might the following verses help you forgive others or yourself?

### **Genesis 1:26-27**

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

[27] So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them. [NIV]

### **Romans 7:1-25**

Do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? [2] For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. [3] So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

[4] So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. [5] For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. [6] But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

[7] What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." [8] But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. [9] Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. [10] I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. [11] For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. [12] So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

[13] Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

[14] We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. [15] I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. [16] And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. [17] As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. [18] I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. [19] For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. [20] Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

[21] So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. [22] For in my inner being I delight in God's law; [23] but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. [24] What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? [25] Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. [NIV]

### **Romans 8:1-39**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [2] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. [3] For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, [4] in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

[5] Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

[9] You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [10] But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. [11] And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

[12] Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. [13] For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, [14] because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [17] Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

[18] I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. [19] The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. [20] For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

[22] We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. [23] Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. [24] For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? [25] But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

[26] In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [27] And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

[28] And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. [29] For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

[31] What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? [33] Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [36] As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NIV]

**Philippians 2:3-4**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. [NIV]