

## Lesson 119 Forgiveness

This week the Lord has led me to prepare a lesson on forgiveness. Forgiveness, of course, means to grant pardon, to give up all claim to, to remit, to cease to feel resentment against. So essentially forgiveness is a letting go. It is a form of release. It is a decision to move forward.

Furthermore, what the Lord taught me is that it is arrogant to not forgive. This is because forgiveness is one of the ways of the Lord. It is a characteristic that should be found in a leader or a teacher. It is a way we should adopt as a disciple of Christ. It is a part of our refinement. But it most definitely, is a treasure and a gift.

As you know, forgiveness can be given or it can be received. But most importantly, it is something that is needed by each and every one of us. Therefore, I think we can all agree that it is a characteristics that should be found in each one of us as well.

### Forgiving Others

In the bible we are told the story of Jacob and his twelve sons. Of all his sons, we are told that, Jacob loved Joseph the best *“because he was the son of his old age.”* He loved him so much in fact that Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colors. This made his brothers jealous and mad because they knew Joseph was their father’s favorite. One day Joseph had a dream and he told his brothers about it. This dream made the brothers hate Joseph even more because he dreamed that his brothers would bow down to him. He dreamed:

**Genesis 37:7** *“There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.”*

Shortly after Joseph had this dream, his father sent him to check on his brothers working out in the field. The brothers were still mad at Joseph. So when they first saw him coming towards them they thought about killing him. But ultimately, they decided to sell him off into slavery, which is exactly what they did. The years went by. Jacob mourned the loss of his son because he thought Joseph was dead. The brothers you see came home and told their father that he was torn to pieces by an animal, however, in actuality he was living in slavery in a foreign land. The Lord, however, was with Joseph and he prospered in spite of his being a slave.

Sometime later a famine came to all the land. People were starving. Jacob, Joseph’s father, however had heard that there was grain in Egypt. So he sent his sons for grain that they might live. They ended up going, unbeknownst to them, to see their brother Joseph. He by this time was the governor over Egypt. He was in charge of all the grain of Egypt. He immediately recognized his brothers although they did not recognize him. As the story goes, the brothers became very fearful once they realized that they were dealing with their long, lost brother. The very brother they had sold into slavery.

**Genesis 45:1-16** *Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of*

*Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: **"I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine." ' And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."** Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.*

Joseph had much that he could have chosen to be angry about. He was robbed of his freedom. He was sold into slavery. He was deprived of a life and a relationship with his family for many years. Yes He, most definitely, had much to be angry, bitter, and resentful about. Yet, he chose to forgive. He chose to move on. He chose to see God in his path, guiding his every step. We are encouraged to do the same:

10/02/08 CT - Your heart is the seat of your soul. Where your heart is, is where your treasures lie (ie: Forgiveness). Judgement is not from the heart. Judgement is truth; there is no self in judgement. (Judgement is not critical it is simply truth) Judgement comes from the mercy seat.  
10/26/11 DP - Lead by example, be of a kind heart, forgive and forget, humility a must.  
11/18/11 DP - Patience endures all things, be patient in all things, slow to wrath, quick to forgive. This thing is good.  
12/11/11 CT - Focus, focus, focus; keep the right focus. Love your neighbors as yourself. Want the best for them. Forgive that which needs to be forgiven and trust fully in the Lord, as power channels through trust.  
02/11/12 MVA - Always Loved, always show Love. My Kingdom Love, Kindness, Righteousness. Backbite not. Forgive quickly. Ready to help always. Determination to do good. Cast away uncleanness. Purity in all.  
03/19/12 SN – Forgive all.  
05/10/12 DP - Forgive and forget let nothing stop you from walking in perfect peace.  
10/30/12 DP - Forgive much power in forgiveness.

If Joseph had chosen to be angry, resentful, or even bitter the course of history could have been very different. Happiness would have eluded him in that state. Yet in spite of all he went

through he still decided to forgive. He decided to go the way of the Lord. He chose to become a man of character. He chose to forgive. Forgiveness is a choice. Choose wisely.

**Matthew 5:44-45** *“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

Joseph chose to forgive. Forgiveness is a choice.

## **We are Forgiven**

Another story from the bible is that of Jacob and Esau. They were twins. I think there was probably some sibling rivalry between them. The brothers were very different. Esau liked to be outside. He was a hunter. While Jacob, it seemed, liked to stick closer to home. He would cook some with his mother. I think Jacob was close to his mom. The mother of the boys was Rebekah and their father was Isaac. Esau was the firstborn son and as such he was entitled to certain advantages as far as inheritance went. This was called “His Birthright”. Esau, however, did not value his birthright. He ended up selling it to Jacob one day when he was very hungry. Also in addition to this the firstborn would usually be the one to get the father’s blessing. Since Esau was born first this blessing should have rightfully gone to him as well, however, Rebekah, his mother wanted the blessing to go to his brother, Jacob. So she talked Jacob into disguising himself as his brother. He tricked Isaac into getting his brother’s blessing. Thus Jacob managed to take both the birthright and the blessing from his brother. The bible says,

**Genesis 27:41** *So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”*

Shortly after this happened, Jacob’s father sent him away to another land to find a wife. He remained there for many years. He acquired much while he was away. Wives, children, flocks, servants etc. But after a time he decided it was time to return. He wanted to do this but as he journeyed he grew afraid of his brother because he knew he had stolen from him. And when he heard that his brother was approaching with four hundred men he definitely became afraid.

**Genesis 32:7** *So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies. And he said, “If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape.”*

Jacob was expecting the worst because of what he had done. He was expecting Esau to be filled with anger and wrath. The bible says:

**Genesis 33:4-12** *But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down. And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down. Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord." **But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."** And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me. Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." So he urged him, and he took it. **Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you."***

At first Esau was very angry with his brother. He even wanted to kill him but in the end Esau chose to forgive his brother. The past was the past. He let go of it. His attitude of grace united the brothers once again.

Like Jacob we have been forgiven as well. We have been forgiven, because God chose to forgive us. Therefore, we have indeed experienced this same grace. We have experienced the grace of the Father through His forgiveness of our sins. He has given this because He understands that forgiveness is key in our moving forward with Him.

**Hebrews 8:12** *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins, and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

01/30/12 DP - **Forgiveness is granted.**

02/02/12 DP - **Take peace knowing I comfort you, I forgive your every trespass.**

03/02/12 DP - **Love, forgiveness given for sins committed.**

07/07/12 DP - **Confess your faults one to another I will forgive.**

07/12/12 BN - **All is forgiven but go and sin no more.**

08/23/12 DP - **Forgiveness and Mercy are Mine to give, receive them.**

09/01/12 DP - **Forgiveness is in Me, learn to accept what you are forgiven of.**

09/25/12 BT - **You have been forgiven, go and sin no more.**

09/26/12 BN - **I forgive all on this Day of Atonement, Bring all before Me, Your sacrifice is good and well pleasing, See not that you continue in sin but be pure before My sight, I wash all clean so that you may start fresh.**

**His Way**

When speaking of forgiveness, who can forget the story of the Woman caught in Adultery. She had been caught in the very act. There was no denying that it happened. The scribes and the Pharisees brought her to the Lord. They used the situation to test Jesus.

**John 8:3-6** *Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with his finger, as though He did not hear.*

So the Lord was about to teach them His way. And it was a memorable teaching indeed.

**John 8:7-12** *So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Jesus taught the way of forgiveness. He did not condemn the woman. Instead He encouraged her to change, and to sin, no more. You could say that He encouraged her to be obedient unto the law. But the point of this story was that her sins were forgiven and forgotten. He wanted her to move forward with her life. Leaving the past behind. We are encouraged to do likewise:

06/23/12 MVA - Beautiful is obedience in My sight. Obedience leads to responsibility in your God Jesus. Stay obedient in all. Purpose rests in obedience. Obedience allows your God to bless and protect. Always be obedient. When off track, get on track through obedience. Dwell in My forgiveness when mistakes are made and move forward.

10/27/12 BN – The world fights My ways at every turn. Be one with Me and not one with the world. Put your trust in the Lord. Keep building. Keep moving forward. Relax in the Lord, grace, peace, mercy and forgiveness.

**Philippians 3:13** *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.*

So forgetting and moving forward are elements of His Way. We will never grow in our walk if we are hung up on things of the past. Jesus knew this. And then there are other elements as well. For example, as we read above, there is also the element of obedience. In addition we have the element of getting rid of self and finally, we have the element of following His

example. Yes, we can once again see His encouragement to live out these elements in His words below.

07/23/08 CT - Forgiveness asked for; remember the words of the Lord's prayer ("And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors) Psalms 23 ("He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake - Not only in death but in life in this world also).

09/18/10 CT - I Am the mediator; I remove and forgive sin. Eliminate self, following my will for your life. You are on the path of everlasting. Atonement has been made for you. Imitate, emulate me. I AM your example in this new year. Honor and respect me by following my example. Go and sin no more.

05/28/11 CT - Just like I said remove the plank from your eye before getting the speck from your neighbor's likewise remember your/the sins which you have been forgiven. This will help you forgive others. Examine your life, where you were in the past to where you are now. Examine your growth as mine (my child) to help you teach others and to help you be more empathetic, sympathetic, loving, forgiving, patience etc. I felt like He was saying the character of my leaders is important.

11/20/11 DP - Amnesty, Forgiveness. My love covers your debt. Be at one with Me. I AM the Lord GOD. To do My will brings perfect peace. Know that I lead you in the way. Honor Me with obedience that it may be well with you. I cause you to endure to the end. Take peace in knowing I AM with you. I AM peace, I AM light, I AM the way. Seek Me now to deliver and set free I am able to do so. Keep Me ever so close to you. The way is made, be all you can be that is My will for you. Take courage.

03/15/12 DP - Be as I AM, loving, kind, slow to wrath, quick to forgive.

05/04/12 DP - My ways past finding understanding. Forgiveness of sins, I seek to forgive those hurting.

05/07/12 DP - Focus your mind into Me. Forgiveness is the only option. Be the light I called you to be, let My love shine through for all to see.

05/07/12 DP - Forgive and forget, dwell on the things concerning Me.

06/27/12 DP - Many things being brought to light. Take heed to follow all instruction.

Leadership principles being established instant obedience is a must you cannot teach others to be obedient if you are not. Forgiveness is key. How can two walk together except they be agreed? Diligence must be observed take not lightly what I have shown you. My time is soon will you be prepared?

09/04/12 DP - Follow My example given you, love those who hate you, forgive those who sin against you, pray for those who spitefully use you, in this you will be well pleasing.

01/14/13 BN - Do not be lax, Stay on top of things, Power of forgiveness, Fertile fields...harvest almost ready, Strength and discipline, Seek Me for help.

These are just a few of the ways we are to follow Him. We are to move forward in our walk with the Lord. We are to let His light shine through us for all to see. We are to live His example by eliminating self. And we, of course, are to forgive as He forgives. These are the ways we are to follow Him.

**The Enemy**

The last story I want to share in this lesson comes from **Luke 15**. It is the story of the Prodigal Son. It is a story of forgiveness as well. It is the story of how the enemy will come in and try to mess things up. You see in this story there was a man who had two sons. The younger son went to his father one day and asked for his inheritance. Pretty much as soon as the boy got his money he left town and went off to have a good time. He ended up wasting away all that his father had given him. About this time there was a famine in the land. As the young man had squandered all his wealth he had to take a job. So he got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry that even the pig feed looked good. But he got to thinking about it and he realized that even his father's servants had it better than he did at that particular moment. So he decided to return home and humbly ask his father if he could be one of his servants. But when he returned the father was overjoyed to see him. In the bible it says:

**Luke 15:20-24** *“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.”*

The father was thrilled that his long, lost son had returned. He immediately forgave and forgot all that his young son had done. I think the father understood that the enemy had gotten a hold of his boy. He said as much when his eldest son questioned him.

**Luke 15:25-32** *“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”*

The young son had chosen to leave his father's house. Therefore, the father was thrilled by his return. The father understood that his younger son had been lost to "self". He understood that the enemy had taken his boy off course once he had opened the door to him. But now his son had returned and He had even confessed. The young son was humbly seeking forgiveness. And the father's response, his child's sins were forgiven, the past was forgotten, they no longer mattered because he had returned. He had come home. What an amazing lesson in forgiveness! Can you see the parallels between the young son's father and our Heavenly Father? This is why this is such an awesome lesson.

In this story we also learned that the enemy took advantage of an opportunity to get the young son off course. The enemy will try to get us off course as well. He will use any means, any opportunity, he can think of, to keep us, from our Heavenly Father. He will, in fact, even use forgiveness, in an attempt, to get between the Heavenly Father and each one of us, His children. In the words below the Lord teaches us to be mindful of our actions, ever vigilant against the enemy and his crafty ways.

04/17/11 CT- Incredible blessings to come; freedom from exile. The Israelites were in exile in Egypt, an exile they chose. **Because people have free will some choose to exile themselves from me** but events are changing (end times). Many people will be coming back to me. They will be returning from exile. **I am about personal relationships.** (Marriage is about a personal, intimate relationship) **Teach others to open the door to me and not to the enemy.** I am light, love, joy, peace and warmth; but what does the enemy offer. Teach the difference.

Calibrate the future. I'm calling for action. Last days – since we are in the last days the enemy is trying harder, desperately trying to keep my children from me. The song, "Love is a battlefield", came into my mind. It is a battle you are in; don't underestimate the enemy.

Apparitions; **the enemy uses the past to haunt people. Teach about the cleansing blood, protections and forgiveness.** Don't allow the enemy to have victory. Declare victory in Jesus name. Pronounce and announce it. Remember the power of words. Amen.

06/23/12 MVA - **Dwell in My forgiveness when mistakes are made and move forward. The enemy will discourage I encourage.** Dwell in your God Jesus. I Am guiding you through refinement this requires obedience.

10/17/12 DP - **Forgiveness is key, forgive and forget. Give no place for the devil to abide.** Listen closely many will persecute you for the truth's sake endure, walk in love, live peaceably with all men by this they will know you are My disciple. Honor Me My child with obedience

As you read above the enemy will use the past to haunt you. He will try to make you think that you are not worthy of forgiveness. He will toss discouragements at you. He will use any open door he can. There is nothing that he won't do. This is because he wants to stop your forward momentum in the Lord at any cost. Even he understands that forgiveness is one of the keys in our relationship with the Lord. This is why he will even attempt to twist forgiveness in an effort to keep you from the Lord. Therefore, you must give him no place to abide. All doors to him must remain closed as we walk with the Lord.

## **Our Character, Our Pets, His Revelation**

As I was working on this lesson it became apparent to me that the Lord was trying to teach me something about my character as His disciple. He is teaching me, all of us really, about grace, love, pardon and release. He is teaching us about becoming the person He would have us be. He, for example has said this,

10/08/11 CT - Majesty, King of King, Give praise to your Lord for forgiveness and mercy from everlasting to everlasting. Grace abounds through Jesus Christ. The Holy of Holies is in your heart where I dwell; keep it clean. **Your heart is so important to where you are with me.**

**Keep it clean and clear. Have mercy and grace for others just as I had it for you. Live my example.** If you stumble, pick yourself up, brush yourself off (cleanliness of heart, mind and soul) and start back up. The closer the walk with me the further the distances will be between the stumbles. All that was (held) within the Holy of Holies should be held within your heart (Laws – obedience and righteousness; Mercy – Mercy seat; Budding stick – faith; and Me- I AM).

04/04/12 CT - **Grace and forgiveness – when I am given everything but don't deserve anything. When I am given forgiveness but don't deserve it.** Remember my words to the (adulterous) woman who they wanted to stone. I said, "Go and sin no more." You should be working towards this as your goal – **sinning no more. Yes, My grace forgives you but you should have the desire to sin no more.** You must have knowledge of what pleases me to keep sin out. This is why study and reading is important so that you get to know me better, to know what I want from you. Obedience, yes, but obedience from a place of sincere love for your King, not just following the rules to stay out of trouble. Yes, obedience can keep you out of trouble but you will be missing out on so much more if that's your only motivator. Seek my love and relationship and intimacy. This is where your true happiness, fulfillment, and joy will come from. They come from a life with Me. Living by the rules may keep you out of trouble but it doesn't keep you in love. Go the next step. Embrace Me and the love I have for you. This is my desire for you.

And now's the time, I believe, to share with you the starting point from which this lesson came. For the Lord gave me an experience from which I knew a lesson was to be done. It is as follows:

01/08/13 CT DREAM – I guess this was a dream but it didn't feel like a dream. I really do not know how to categorize it. It felt like the Lord was having this happen in real life. Anyway, what happened was that as I was laying in my bed Jesus had a man talk to me. I could not see either one of them but I knew they were there. But I could "hear them". The man that Jesus had talk to me was a man who had not forgiven someone. What the man said to me was this, "I didn't want to forgive because it cuts through the cost." So after he said this I meditated on his words for a while. I particularly meditated on those of "it cuts through the cost".

I think the man was telling me that at the time he had felt that the mere act of forgiving actually diminished the value of what had been taken from him. Whether it had been taken through a lie, through unfaithfulness, through thievery, it really didn't matter. What mattered was that it had been taken and it was something he valued. He didn't want to forgive because "it cut through the cost".

This man was hurt because something he valued had been taken from him. It doesn't matter if it was the truth, a relationship or one of his belongings. That part of the story is really irrelevant, because what we truly need to get from this, is that an act had been taken that needed his forgiveness but he didn't want to give it because he prized what he had lost.

So this man decided to hold onto the hurt, the sense of betrayal, the feelings of loss. He was giving harbor to negativity. But what he didn't realize is that when we harbor, when we hang onto feelings of hurt, blame and even punishment, what we are actually doing is, building a wedge that comes between the Lord and us. This is because we are opening a door to the enemy. "Self" is at the center of these types of feelings of hurt, loss and betrayal. What this

man didn't realize is that this situation, these feelings for him were becoming a "pet" as he continued holding onto and harboring them. (Remember a pet is, something they **wanted to believe**, something they **wanted to hang onto**. From THH at <http://www.takehisheart.com/powerofthewilldeathofapet.htm>)

This man, however, is not unique in this experience. Many of us, myself included have found it difficult to forgive at one time or another. This is because the more we valued what was lost, the harder it is for us to forgive. The easier it is for it to become a "pet". And in regards to forgiveness, it must be said that the bigger the betrayal, the more intensely we hold on to this newly acquired "pet" of ours. A wrong has been committed, therefore, we feel justified in our response. Our new friend, the man, felt that forgiveness would diminish the value of what was taken from him; especially, if it was given up so easily.

But all these feelings are not good because what we have come to realize is that holding onto them, focusing and festering over these feelings, in the end gives them precedent over our relationship with the Lord. This is because we are allowing this situation to weigh us down as opposed to us moving forward with the Lord. It is at this point that we fully understand this lesson from the Lord.

Therefore, what we have learned is that ultimately what we should value the most is our relationship with the Lord. This is what I believe the Lord wanted me to take from this experience. I believe He wants us to know that our relationship with Him is more valuable than anything else. He wants us to understand that our relationship will be affected by the "pets" we choose to hold onto. It will be affected because we are focusing on something other than the Lord. Therefore, we must forgive, in order to not become the betrayer ourselves. For you see, when we allow our focus to be taken from the Lord, we are in effect, betraying our relationship with Him.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this experience, Jesus brought this lesson to me. I could feel His presence as the man spoke. I knew this was a lesson to be learned. I knew it was for all of us. Just recently the Lord gave this. I believe it goes right along with everything we have been given so far.

12/21/12 CT – Reciprocate kindness. Reciprocate fellowship, give back, pay forward, seek out goodness and kindness and love. Rewards in heaven, treasures - earn these. Love, kindness, goodness, compassion, patience, understanding, forgiveness, build these treasures. Build and share. Let those around you know that you love them. Let them know they are valuable to you. This should become second nature for you. Work on this.

Can you see the picture of personal character that the Lord has painted? Can you see the need for discarding all your "pets" of hurt, blame, and the not forgiving of yourself or others? Can you see this lesson He has revealed?

## Summation

This week the Lord gave these messages:

01/09/13 BT - Today is a new day. Start fresh; leave the past behind and walk with Me. Walk in My ways. Be humble; love Me with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your soul, and love others as yourself. Stay focused on Me. Bring My kingdom forth!

01/14/13 BN - Do not be lax, Stay on top of things, Power of forgiveness, Fertile fields...harvest almost ready, Strength and discipline, Seek Me for help.

01/15/13 CT - Give place, give place to My heart. Hold it dear. Do not allow distractions to take it's place. Focus on Me and what I am doing. Allow Me to lead. Do not trespass into darkness. Do not cross over into negativity or hurt or fear. Keep Me at first place. Hold Me dear. I AM your God. I AM your God Jesus. I AM with you. I AM leading. Follow My example (thought of the woman caught in adultery).

01/16/13 DP - I am doing many things clearing the hearts of My children who have been burdened by hardship.

These messages pretty much sum up the entire lesson don't they! Yes, today is a new day. We can leave the past behind us. We can walk together with Him into all that lies ahead. In this lesson we have learned about forgiveness. He has taught us to forgive others.

He has taught us to forgive ourselves. He has even taught us that we have been forgiven. We have learned about His ways. And we have learned that the enemy will come against us. We learned this because we learned that holding on to blame, hurt, resentment, etc gives place to the devil. It is the opening of a door to him.

We have learned that it is arrogant to not forgive others. After all, if Christ forgave us who are we not to forgive others!

The Lord taught us that forgiveness is a treasure. It is a gift to the one who receives it. It is a characteristic that should be found in His disciples. We learned that forgiveness is a gift of love whether it comes from the Lord or from another person. And we also learned that it is a part of our refinement because you see there is no "self" in forgiveness. It is a key element in our walk with the Lord. And finally we learned that there is power in forgiveness.

And in closing, just today I was sent this word that the Lord gave way back in the year 2000. When He said,

10-9-00

"Come to order, says the Lord. Come to order, as I will have order in My church." "I am God, says the Lord, and I will have order to accomplish my purposes.

**I am looking for people who 'walk in forgiveness', not lip service You are lying to yourselves. DEAL WITH IT!**

May the Lord be with each and every one of us as we learned to **'walk in forgiveness'**.

Blessings,  
**Cindy**

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