

Keeping the

TRASH  
OUT



## **Keep the Trash Out**

### **Matthew 6:12 – 15.**

**“<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**<sup>14</sup> For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:**

**<sup>15</sup> But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”**

We will look at the greatest teaching to a Christian and that is to learn how to pray and to get your prayers answered. This passage tells us how to keep the trash out of our life. One thing we have at our house is plenty of trash. The garbage has to be taken out regularly and the garbage service is very important. If they miss a week and sometimes they do, we get a bad smell. This can also happen in your spiritual life is well. One of the greatest lessons you can learn as a Christian is to keep the trash out of your lives. Things will happen, words will be said, and feelings will be hurt if you do not get rid of it they will pile up in your life and began to stink. You will get a bitter spirit and become resentful and carry a grudge against someone. This will destroy your attitude and peace and joy. Your fellowship with others will be destroyed and most importantly your fellowship with God is gone. One of the hardest things to do as a Christian is maintain a life of peace and unity with a spirit of forgiveness. You just got to take out the trash every day.

Unforgiveness will cause the trash to accumulate and began to smell. I wish this did not happen but we are human, no one is perfect and we are around each other a lot. The more we are around the more fiction often is created, we must learn to forgive daily.

Recently my wife and I kept our one-year-old granddaughter for a few days. Now I am 63 years old and my old oldest son is 40 and my youngest daughter is 30 and I had forgot the smell

of a poopy diaper. But the memory returned really quick! After my granddaughter had done a bad job, we quickly tie it up and take in out the trash. Did it ever stink? That kind of smell will mess up your whole house. Oh folks, we all have things in our lives that cause a stink, if we don't get rid of it. Jesus teaches us how to keep a life of peace, free from this kind of trash. God wants us to live a life of peace, both with him and with each other. Don't fail here. We must learn this.

I read a story of seminary professor who was teaching on the high cost of unforgiveness. She asks each of her students to bring a sack of potatoes to class. For each person they had to select a potato and write the date on it beside that person's name. Then for a month, without fail, they each had to carry the sack of potatoes with them everywhere they went.

What a drag! After lugging the sacks of potatoes around for a while each student began to recognize; (a) how much weight they were carrying spiritually; (b) the amount of energy it took to focus on their bag; (c) that they had to be careful not to leave it in the wrong place. Eventually, as the potatoes began to rot and stink, each student realized that getting rid of them was the only smart thing to do.

I love the wonderful people who make up the Mountain Ash Baptist Church. I am thankful for our deacons, Sunday school teachers, staff, and all of our wonderful workers. It is a privilege to be their pastor and I wished I could fix it where we

never get hurt feelings. But I have learned over these past 36 years that I cannot do that. But one thing I can do is to help you keep the trash out of your life by forgiving one another.

### **I. The Reason Forgiveness is Required. Vs 12**

You will notice that this is a portion of the model prayer. A prayer that should be prayed every day, meaning we need to carry out the trash every day, forgiveness must be part of our daily prayer. Yes, prayer is important but praying properly by forgiving our brothers and sisters. As long as there is a devil there will be discord and division he started in heaven and kept going on earth, his greatest attack is on the church. DL Moody said, “one sin that holds back revival in our church more than anything is the sin of unforgiveness.”

### **A. There May Be Daily Failures.**

The reason forgiveness is required is simple. No one is perfect and there is a possibility that all of us can fail. We are all capable of saying things that could hurt someone. Have you ever asked yourself why did I say that? We must take the trash daily and learn to forgive. We need to cut people a little slack. You never know what someone is going through.

I read a story about a seminary professor, who became impatient with a student who frequently fell asleep in his class. He was about to flunk or dismiss the student when he felt the urge to visit him. Arriving at the apartment, the student's wife met the professor and told him her husband

was doing laundry in the basement. The professor went down the stairs and witnessed an unforgettable sight: the student was sitting in front of the washing machine with a book on his lap, rocking the baby and was asleep! The wife told the professor how she had been ill following the birth of the baby. Her husband had been doing triple duty: caring for the child, working all night to pay the bills, and maintaining his studies. Since we do not know all the facts we should not be quick to take offence at someone.

None of you who have been saved for some time have avoided being offended. It had been so long back and you may even forgot what was said or done that offended you. But you know that it's still there, you're carrying a grudge against someone. All of us have said or will say something that will hurt someone else. I dare to say that most of the members of the Mountain Ash Baptist Church including the deacons have criticized their pastor at one time or another. I think we should try to avoid hurting someone. Be careful with your words. Today, people leave the church never returned because of offenses done to them. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus in **Matthew 18:6-7**. **“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him**

**that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**

**<sup>7</sup>Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”** We read how the great Apostle Paul felt about trying not to offend anyone. **1 Corinthians 8:13 “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth.”**

### **B. There Must Be Daily Forgiveness.**

Yes, there are those seemly daily fail, we are hurt so because of this Jesus said when you pray forgive. This is the only way to keep the trash out of our life and stop it from piling up and causing a stink. Jesus Christ did not just teach these truths, He also practiced them. Jesus did not allow trash to accumulate in His life. Jesus was done wrong by a lot even those that were very close to Him. I am speaking of Simon Peter, who I'm sure loved the Lord Jesus and Jesus loved him. They served together. Even though Peter confessed, he would never deny Him. That's exactly what he did. That must've hurt. Simon Peter went back to his old fishing business and even led the disciples to do the same. We read in John 21, that Jesus had prepared a meal for them and when Peter came even though he failed our Lord Jesus and hurt him so Jesus Christ did not say any harsh words to him. Jesus refused to

carry a grudge even though he had been hurt. Jesus forgave Simon Peter, and he confessed his love to him. All that Jesus said to Simon Peter was you need to get back to taking care of the sheep. Jesus didn't bring up his failures in his past. Jesus took the trash out daily and he carried nothing over from the weeks, months or even years prior to that. Jesus forgave daily and so should we. You know Jesus was hurt by Judas who sold Him out and betrayed him. Because Jesus was a forgiving Savior he didn't carry any grudges against anyone.

I read a story two men traveling through life with sacks on their backs. Each time a hurt was received they would put in what became known as their injury sack. One man's sack became so big and heavy he couldn't walk without pain. The other man's sack was empty and light. Nothing in it. How can your injury sack be empty? A stranger ask. Have you never been hurt? "O yes, I have been hurt many time," the man replied. As my sack grew larger and too heavy to bear I ask a friend to help me carry my load. No one can help you carry your load of hurts. But there is one way for you to rid yourself of it. Take the scissors of forgiveness and slit the bottom of your sack. Your load of hurt will fall away. That's what I chose to do. Since then I take all the hurts which I carry and place them in my injury sack as before, but now they simply slide out the bottom. That's one load I choose not to carry. It's your decision. Learn to forgive.



## **II. The Resistance Forgiveness Receives. Vs 14–15**

But if you forgive not men their trespasses neither will your father forgive your trespasses. Why did Jesus make that statement? Because there is resistance from you and I in forgiveness. We don't want to forgive. No, we want to get even. We want to pay back. It is in our nature to seek revenge; a justice system is built in us. If we get hurt we want to hurt someone else. We must learn to forgive. Unforgiveness is garbage in our life, the trash piles up and it will cause a major stink.

**Hebrews 12:15, “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”** Bitter people hurt others. Two things we want to do.

### **A. We Want to Retreat.**

When we get hurt by someone we say nothing to that person about it, rather we retreat from them and go away thinking about it and become an angry. You see the truth is we don't want to go to that person and make it right, rather we want to retreat, then there is this slow burn that's done on the inside of us. You avoid that person that hurt you. Often even staying away from church or a family functions. This is not how to handle the problem. The Bible says in **Matthew 18:15** **“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against**

**thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone.”** You need to go to them. Often times we tell it to someone else and choose up sides again. The Bible says in **Matthew 5:23–24** **“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”** Go they way first find thy brother only then you can receive the blessings from God. **Ephesians 4:27c** **“let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”** That means fix it quickly, fix it that day. The quicker the better. **Gal. 6:1** **“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”.**

## **B. We Want to Get Revenge.**

Another thing that will cause us to resist forgiveness of someone is we want to get even with that person that hurt us; people who does not forgive end up carrying a grudge. You file it away in your mind, and seek revenge. I read of a truck driver who stopped at a truck stop for dinner. When a group of motorcycle riders come and one of the riders tried to pick a fight with the driver saying

harsh things to him. But the driver ignored the man and finished his meal. Then he just got up and walked out. One of the motorcycle riders said to the waiter he is not much of a man. The waiter looked back and said that man that you just insulted is not much of a driver either he just ran over a whole row of motorcycles outside. This man was thinking about getting even which is wrong. We read in **Romans 12:19b “avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”** This is the work of God not for you and I to get revenge on anyone. You will end up hurting yourself.

I once watched the Amos and Andy show. One particular episode showed Andy walking down the street with an overcoat on in the summer time. There was a large bulge sticking out of the overcoat. Amos asked Andy, what was under his coat and Andy proceeded to tell him about his frustration with a certain man who always thumped him on his chest while he talked to him. I’m going to fix him Andy answered. I’ve got two sticks of dynamite strapped to my chest when he thumps me this time I am going to blow his hand off. We often hurt our self-trying to seek revenge.

### **III. The Repair Forgiveness Renders. Vs 14–15**

Notice he says, if we forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you your trespasses. If you don't forgive, you will not be forgiven. A person who forgives repairs two

relationships, one with his family and the other with his Father. Forgiveness repairs the rip between us. Forgiveness gets rid of the acid inside of us. Forgiveness is the oil that keeps the machinery of Christian living running smoothly. Many today suffer from the self-inflicted wounds of unforgiveness. This will hurt you, emotionally, mentally, and physically. How many suffer from stomach illnesses because of this problem? Or heart disease or heartache because of a heavy burden? And of course we know that this is a spiritual killer for any life of a believer, forgiveness is required. Listen things that are valuable and get broken we don't throw it away, we get it repaired. This should be the same for people.

### **A. Forgiveness Repairs the Fellowship in the Family.**

We must forgive men their trespasses. Do you have hard feelings toward someone else in God's family? You will never be right until you get it right with your brother or sister. Folks, we are a family we are brothers and sisters with the same father and the same Holy Spirit and the same Savior all called to do work for God. We must learn to forgive. **Ephesians 4:32 “forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”** Yes, forgiveness suffers for another's wrong. What I mean, is this if you forgive someone it requires you to bear the debt that they owe. Like Jesus Christ dying on the cross not for any wrong that he had done, but for the wrong of others. He was falsely

accused, and was done terrible injustice, beat with a cat of nine tails and then nailed to a cross. Yet Jesus Christ did not hold a grudge. We read in **Luke 23:34** “**forgive them; for they know not what they do.**” Even before anyone asked him to forgive them, he had already forgiven them. This is one truth we must learn. If you do not forgive, you are hurting yourself. You are separating yourself from the family and this is not the will of God.

### **B. Forgiveness Repairs the Fellowship with the Father.**

Notice, lastly, if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. If you are not right with the family then you are not right with the Father. You need to do yourself a huge favor and learn to forgive. People who are unwilling to forgive destroy a bridge, they must cross to God. One day you would need to get a prayer through to God and it will not happen if you have unforgiveness in your heart. You need to get it out. Maybe it was years ago, you never forgave someone, you need to get rid of the trash so the blessings of God can flow again.

I read a story about a local woman who moved back to Georgia to purchase the old homestead on which she grew up on. Her mother and father had passed away, and the land had to be claimed. One of the first things she had to do was hire someone to clean out the well that her father dug many years before. Over the years, a lot of stuff had accumulated in the well and made the water

worthless. The crew got a good sized pile out and showed the woman so they could get paid for the job, but she said, “Nope, there’s more in there. Please keep digging.” This went on for about three days. Finally, at the end of the third day, the woman looked at the latest pile of trash, toys, and miscellaneous objects that had found their home at the bottom of the well and said, “You’re done.” Puzzled, one of the men asked how she knew that was it. She answered, “Because when I was a little girl and Papa first dug that well, I took a teapot and threw it in the well. I figured the first thing that went into that well would be the last thing that came out.” You need to get to the bottom of your problem and get it forgiven.



**"Come To The Mountain"**



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