Must I Forgive and Forget?

Adam Willingham · Hebrews 8:6–12

INTRODUCTION

- And it is, must I forgive and forget. When someone has wronged us and we have forgiven them, does that mean that we have to forget about it?
- For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.
- If you define it like the Bible defines it, then the answer to this question, must I forgive and forget, is a definite yes.

1 What Does It Mean for God to Forget Sins?

Ezekiel 33:16; Romans 4:7–8

- It doesn't mean that God literally forgets and cannot recall those sins if he were to try.
- Then David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David, the Lord also has taken away your sin.
- It means that he remembers our sins no more against us.
- Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.
- He knows that the sins happened, but he does not impute them to us. He does not take those sins into account.

2 Remember Our Offenders' Sins No Longer Against Them

Genesis 45:4–5

- We are to forgive like God forgives. So if he forgives and forgets, we must do the same.
- It doesn't mean that we are to erase those sins from our memory altogether.
- 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.
- What this means is that we must remember our offenders' sins no longer against them.
- He comforted them and spoke kindly to them, which I want to suggest is part of true forgiveness.

3 Not Bitterly Dwelling on Offenses

Hebrews 12:14–15

- Forgiving and forgetting means at least three things. First of all, it means not bitterly dwelling on offenses.
- See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God. That no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.
- It's a deliberate forgetfulness. Where we're not going to let it just sit in our minds and trouble us anymore.

4 Not to Lay Guilt on the Individual

- Don't hold the sin over their head, don't bring it back up as a manipulative, cruel attempt to remind the individual or as a weapon to use against them.
- Sometimes we bury the hatchet, but we leave that handle sticking out.
- I don't believe that once you forgive and forget, then you can't ever bring it up for any purpose. But you don't bring it up to hurt the person ever again.

5 Treat the Offender as if the Sin Never Happened

Romans 4:8

- To regard the sinner with the same love, compassion, care that you would as if he never or she never committed the sin.
- That doesn't mean there may not be consequences for what they have done. But it means you're not just going to hold a grudge against them.
- The New American Standard says, does not take into account a wrong suffered.
- It happened, but we're not going to impute it to them. We're going to remove it from that debt ledger.

THE CHALLENGE

So why don't you come? Why do you keep putting it off? What are you waiting for?

MY NOTES