

The Evidence of Forgiveness

(Mark 16:7)

- Introduction:
1. Forgiveness is a central theme within Christianity.
 2. We have all struggled with trying to extend forgiveness to others, while also laboring to receive it ourselves.
 3. (Matthew 18:35) Our forgiveness depends on how we forgive.
 4. This lesson is intended to give us advice that will help us learn to forgive.

I. Jesus and Forgiveness

- A. We have an example of a disciple of Jesus that needed Jesus' forgiveness.
- B. (Mark 14:27-72).
- C. Peter is a man who needed forgiveness and he received it (Acts 2:14).
- D. But what were the steps of his reconciliation? How did Jesus evidence His forgiveness to Peter?

II. The Evidence of Forgiveness

- A. A Desire For The Person Is Made Known.
 1. (Mark 16:7) "Go tell the disciples, and Peter..."
 2. No doubt, Peter would not have included himself among the disciples.
 3. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we evidence to them our love and desire for them, or do we leave them wondering?
- B. The Person Is Included Socially.
 1. (John 21:1-14).
 - a. Jesus appeared to His disciples and prepared a meal for them.
 - b. Peter was socially included with the rest of the disciples.
 2. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we evidence our forgiveness by including them socially?
- C. The Difficult Issues Are Discussed Privately.
 1. (John 21:15-20).
 - a. Jesus walked alone with Peter, and discussed their relationship.
 - b. It is here that things are mended - Peter is humbled.
 2. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we discuss those issues with the privately?
- D. Trust Was Demonstrated By Conferring Responsibility Upon Him.
 1. (John 21:15-17) feed my sheep.
 2. Jesus restored Peter's vision and verbalized His belief in his ability to effectively minister.
 3. When someone needs our forgiveness, do we help restore their vision, helping them to see the good they can perform in God's kingdom?

- Conclusion:
1. Here we have an example of one who forgave, and how his forgiveness was evidenced.
 2. We would all do well to follow our Lord's example.
 3. Begin today by building bridges of reconciliation.