

# God's GOAL in me

## God's Goal In Me Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'

34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

NKJV

God is aware of the emotional pain that we can experience when someone sins against us. Some sins that cause the most pain are murder; racism; physical or sexual assault; verbal assault; betrayal; fraud; abandonment; neglect. Jesus experienced all of these. God is not only aware, He has walked in our shoes.

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

NKJV

To be like Jesus, we must forgive those who hurt us.

Luke 23:32-34

32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.

33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

NKJV

The Greek word forgive means to send away or to let go. The word is used in many contexts. It is used to send a way a servant on a mission. It is used to send a way a gift to another. It is used to send a way a debt that someone owes. It is used to send a way or let go of the desire to hurt someone that has hurt us.

When someone hurts us, we can either choose to let go of the desire to hurt them or we can harbor this desire.

Harboring the desire to hurt someone is called bitterness.

Hebrews 12:14-15

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

NKJV

The Greek word for bitter comes from a word that means to pitch a tent.

Bitterness is a condition of the soul in which we pitch a tent over the desire to hurt someone has hurt us.

Forgiveness is sending away or letting go of the desire to hurt them.

The Greek word for bitterness came from the name of an ancient medicine that people believed was of benefit to them when in reality it poisoned them.

Harboring the desire to hurt those that hurt us seems to be the right thing to do. It also produces a pleasing emotion that creates a sense that we have power over our lives and others.

The reality is bitterness is the root of emotional disorders and mental illness that destroy us and others.

Root of bitterness comes from a plant that appeared to be good to eat when in reality it was poisonous.

It causes trouble. It grows up and defiles you and others.

The way to peace with all people and holiness is to forgive; to let go of the desire to hurt those that hurt you.

How do you know if you have forgiven someone?

[Ephesians 4:29-32](#)

[29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.](#)

[30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.](#)

[31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.](#)

[32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.](#)

[NKJV](#)

- Kind-gentle
- Tenderhearted-Compassionate

Compassion is investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of the one that has hurt you.

[Romans 12:20-21](#)

[20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."](#)

[21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.](#)

[NKJV](#)

This does not mean tolerating their sin or enabling their sin. Being compassionate to someone means confronting them with the truth of God's Word.

[Galatians 6:1-2](#)

[1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.](#)

[2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.](#)

[NKJV](#)

Being spiritual in being forgiving. Being forgiving is being like Jesus.

[Colossians 3:12-13](#)

[12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;](#)

[13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.](#)

[NKJV](#)

How do you put off bitterness and put on forgiveness for anyone that hurts you?

- [Decide to receive Jesus](#)

To receive Jesus, I must acknowledge that I am a sinner.

To receive Jesus, I must acknowledge that I hurt God and deserve God's judgement.

To receive Jesus, I must acknowledge that I am forgiven by God because of the atonement of Jesus Christ.

Receiving Jesus humbles you. It saves me from the false idea that I am entitled to hurt others because they have hurt you. If Jesus forgives me and blesses me, how can I not forgive you and bless you. Your sin against me will never be as great or as gross as my sin against God.

Jesus said that receiving forgiveness and not forgiving others is like...

Being forgiven a great debt that you could never repay but punishing someone that only owe you a small amount of money. (Matthew 18:21-35)

To put on forgiveness for every hurt, you must have a change of heart that comes only by receiving Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin.

- [Decide to put off the flesh by faith in Jesus Christ and put on the Lord Jesus Christ.](#)

Because we live in the flesh, we have desires to hurt those that hurt us.

[Romans 7:18](#)

[18 For I know that in me \(that is, in my flesh\) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.](#)

[NKJV](#)

When I am offended, in my flesh....

1. I like punishing others that hurt me.
2. I like getting even.
3. I like to vent my anger on others.
4. I like to tell people off.
5. I like seeing those who hurt me get what they deserve.
6. I like assaulting others in order to defend myself.
7. I like the idea that I am entitled to get even

Because I am in Christ, my flesh does not define me.

[Romans 6:1-14](#)

[6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?](#)

[2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?](#)

[3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?](#)

[4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.](#)

[5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,](#)

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.  
NKJV

Romans 8:1-4

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

NKJV

By faith in Christ, I decide to put off the old man and put on the new man.

Romans 13:12-14

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.  
NKJV

If I pray in faith in Jesus Christ for the power to forgive, Jesus will give me His power to forgive any offense.

(Example: Unbroken-Path To Redemption-The story of Louis Zamperini)

I have found the following practice in prayer to be very helpful in forgiving others.

- Confess by name who has offended me
- Confess how they have offended me
- Confess that I am a new creation in Christ and that what I desire in my flesh will not define me.

Forgiveness is what I am made to do.

- [Confess that by His power, I am forgiving each person for their sin.](#)

Tell God that I will not hurt the person that has hurt me. Tell God that I am leaving all judgment up to Him.

Jewish doctors and nurses at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh put their personal feelings aside to help save the life of the man who allegedly claimed he wanted to “kill all the Jews” as he opened fire at a synagogue and murdered 11 worshipers.

Robert Bowers, 46, was shot multiple times himself and taken to AGH. In addition to killing eight men and three women, he wounded six other people, including four police officers, before surrendering Saturday.

“He was taken to my hospital and he’s shouting, ‘I want to kill all the Jews,’” Dr. Jeffrey Cohen, president of Allegheny General Hospital and a member of the Tree of Life Synagogue, told ABC. “The first three people who took care of him were Jewish.”

Another nurse, whose father is a rabbi, “came in from a mass casualty drill and took care of this gentleman.”

These people who were not followers of Jesus demonstrated more grace to someone who hated them than I see many professing Christians demonstrate to others!

Is it any wonder why the Jews and the world are not listening to what the church has to say about God?

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you forgive? Will you be like Jesus?

Will you walk in forgiveness?

Last week we saw that to be like Jesus, we must serve others without any thought of reward in this life. This is called having an attitude of humility.

If we have this attitude of humility, we are very difficult to offend.

An offense occurs when someone violates the law and causes us to suffer.

Being offended is a condition in our soul. It can result from an offense or it can result anytime one of our expectations of others is not fulfilled.

Serving without thought of reward in this life, eliminates about 90% or more of our expectations of others. We are not easily offended.

This was how Jesus lived. He was not easily offended because He served others without any thought of being rewarded in this life. He lived with an attitude of humility. He demonstrated this when the people of home town picked up stones to stone Him.

He demonstrated this when Judas betrayed Him.  
He demonstrated this when Peter denied Him.

Serve others for the reward in this life and you will be offended in some way every day, because other people are not going to live up to your expectations. They are not going to treat you the way you expect to be treated. Even God will offend you when you serve Him for rewards in this life.

If we are serving without any thought of reward in this life, we are still going to be personally offended at times. People are evil. People abuse us. People are unjust. People do not keep their word. People steal from us. People are harsh. People mistreat those that we love. Even Jesus can be personally offended.

To be like Jesus, we must forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us.