

FORGIVENESS

Text: Psalm 103: 10-14

Date: _____

Intro: God's forgiveness is an outflow of His abundant grace (Hebrew is *Chen* – favour) and mercy (Hebrew is *Rachamim*- compassion) that provides pardon to the guilty party. Adonai's forgiveness does not necessarily release the offender from the consequences (physical, material & spiritual) of his sin. However it provides full release from the guilt of the wrongdoing.

For us to apply and practice Biblical forgiveness in a Torah-like expression, we must understand and be personally a recipient of God's gracious forgiveness and to follow His example in providing forgiveness to others.

I. Understanding God's forgiveness

- a. It is HaShem's nature to forgive sins (Psalm 86:5, Isa 43:22-25).
He is ready to forgive sins (Rom 5:10) even before we ask of it (Rom 5:8), He forgives out of His mercy (*rachamim*) and grace (*chen*) and not because we deserve it or have earned it (Rom 5:6-8, Eph 2:4-7, Col 2:13-14).
- b. When God forgives, He forgives completely (Ps 103:10-12, Jer 50:20, 1 Jn 1:9).
When Adonai forgive us we change! (Rom 5:16-21, 8:1, 33-34) because He no longer deals with us according to what we have done, but because of what He has done! (Ps 51:9, Is 43:25, 44:22)
- c. When God forgives us it costs us nothing (Eph 2:8-9), but to Him it cost's him dearly! (Is 53: 4-12, Jn 3:16, Ac 20:28, Rom 5:8, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Pet 1:17-19) , He will no longer condemn us of the sin in our account (Ps 32:2, Rom 3:24-25, 2 Cor 5:19) God removed our sin from us and from His presence and promises not to remember it (Is 38:17, Micah 7:19, Heb 10:14-18).
- d. God never withholds forgiveness when any sin that we have is confessed in a sincere and biblical torah like manner (1 Jn 1:9).

II. Responding to God's forgiveness

Torah Application- We are to forgive others just as HaShem in the merit of Yeshua Messiah has forgiven us (Eph 4:32, Col 3:13), we too are to forgive others in our heart (mind) even before they ask to be forgiven (Mk 11:25).

- a. Let us willingly forgive whenever a person confesses his/her sin to you.
- b. Let us forgive no matter how severe or devastating it might seem to be.
- c. Let us forgive on the basis of grace.
- d. Let us forgive completely and remember to forget, and not to remind the person of his/her sin in an accusing manner (even though the consequences of sin are still in effect), The only reason to remind anyone of the sin is for restoration or teaching purposes only, and even then it must be done in the spirit of gentleness).
- e. Let us recognize that forgiveness may come as a cost also to you.
- f. Expect a renewed relationship with the one who is forgiven.

Take Note: Forgiveness is an act of obedience to the Lord and must be from the heart (Lk 17:3-10, Eph 4:32, Col 3:13, Matt 18:35), Forgiveness is the LOVE of Yeshua our Master in ACTION! No records of wrong doing (1 Cor 13:5), Do not gossip about it (Eph 4:29), not dwelling on the offense (Philippians 4:8) and restore fellowship with the offender as far as possible (Rom 12:18, 2 Cor 2:6-8).