

## **“Forgive and Forget”** By Luther Blackmon

An old African slave had defied his master's order not to read his Bible and was being flogged for it. As the whip cut into his flesh, his owner taunted him with: “What can your Bible do for you now?”

“It can teach me to forgive you, Master,” he replied.

It is sometimes more difficult to forget than to remember. But we must learn to forget. We do not mean to literally forget, but to cease to nurse a grudge, to put things behind us never to be brought up again no matter what happens in the future.

We need to forget our past failures. Don't cry over spilled milk; get up and milk the cow again. When you have tried something and failed, learn a lesson from your failure and then forget your failure.

Some people can never get over a slight by someone or a wrong done to them. The penitentiary is full of people who could not forget a real or imagined wrong, either by another individual or society as a whole. A man told me that one of the reasons why he had never become a Christian was that he could not forgive a wrong done to him. One of the first recorded statements of the Lord was: “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:15). We had better remember that no unforgiving person can have fellowship with a forgiving God.

When Abraham Lincoln was President, he was bitterly criticized by Edward McMasters Stanton. He called Lincoln a “low cunning clown” and “the original gorilla.” Stanton was a Democrat and Lincoln was a Republican, but after the attack on Fort Sumter, Lincoln appointed Stanton as Secretary of War. Lincoln was more concerned for his country than for Stanton's opinion of him. When Mr. Stanton looked into the rugged and homely face of Mr. Lincoln after he was killed, he remarked in subdued tones of respect: “There lies the greatest leader this country has ever known.” Would it not be nice if Christians would put the interests of the Lord's work and His church before their own petty, little injuries? We could use a lot of real men and women in the church who have the spirit of Lincoln with regard to this matter.

A little girl was asked to define forgiveness. “I don't know the definition, but it works like this: when you crush a rose, the only resistance it offers is a sweet fragrance.” The apostle Paul might have remembered the ill treatment he received at Philippi, but instead he said: “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil. 1:3-4).

### **Thirsty?**

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:14-15).

Some shipwrecked men were left drifting aimlessly on the ocean in a lifeboat. As the days passed under the scorching sun, their rations of food and fresh water gave out. The men grow deliriously thirsty. One night while the others are asleep, one man ignores all previous warnings and gulps down some salt water. He quickly dies. Ocean water contains seven times more salt than the human body can safely ingest. Drinking it, a person dehydrates because the kidneys demand extra water to flush the overload of salt. The more salt water someone drinks, the thirstier he gets. He actually dies of thirst.

When we lust, we become like the man who drank the salt water. We thirst desperately for something that looks like what we want. We don't realize, however, that it is precisely the

opposite of what we really need. In fact, it can kill us! (From Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching, p. 147)

### **24 years in the First Grade**

Statistics show that if public schools met only as often as Sunday Bible classes at Church, it would take 24 years to get through the first grade! Many people attend about half that time, thus a span of 48 years in the first grade would be spent.

Solomon says the trouble with knowledge is that it is limited. Yet, we live in a society based on knowledge, and hopefully, the element of wisdom. The trouble is that we concentrate so heavily on the intellect of secular things that little if any thought is given to Bible knowledge. Does it bother you fathers to know that your responsibility is in providing food, clothing, shelter and spiritual nourishment? (1Tim. 5:8). How long will it take you and your children to get through the first grade of Bible studies?

As parents, we no doubt have planned to some way or another to send those dear ones to college or some institution of higher learning. We will, no doubt, spend thousands of dollars to see that they get that degree in whatever field will best prepare them for their careers here one earth. How much thought, time, and money do we put on spiritual education to prepare them for their profession of being Christians? (Gary Fiscus)

### **Women Who Helped**

We turn the sacred pages,  
That we might in our search,  
Learn how the women labored  
In the early Church.

Pricilla served as teacher of  
The Gospel long ago;  
Kind Dorcas helped the widows,  
And did their sorrows know.

Cenchrea's Phoebe served the Lord  
In the Church located there;  
While Mary opened up her house,  
That all might be in prayer.

As Lydia sold the purple  
In the busy mart,  
She told of Christ the Savior,  
Who had opened wide her heart.

To Timothy, a loving son,  
Good Eunice did impart  
The faith her mother Lois  
Had instilled within her heart.

And other women labored  
In the Gospel work with Paul,  
To keep the faith once given,  
To never let it fall.

All honor to those women,  
Who did such noble work;  
Who faced each duty, as it came,  
And never tried to shirk.  
--Author Unknown

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--The sinning child can never know the burden he places on the heart of that loving mother and father by his actions.

--The highest reward God gives to us for good work is the ability to do better.

--It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realize just how much you love them.

--I've learned that people will forget what you said, people may forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

--You must learn to let go and move on instead of carrying the pain in you. You don't have the right to cause pain to yourself.

--Be certain your passion for equality is not an attempt to portray your envy as a virtue.