

# Life's Little Lessons V

## Forgive and Forget

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:25-26).

Forgiveness is not that which says, “I will forgive, but not forget.” It is not to bury the hatchet with the handle sticking out of the ground so that it can be grabbed at a moment's notice. The one who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass. James said, “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy” (James 2:13).

## It's on the List

“The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they admonish the young women to love their husbands...” (Titus 2:3-4).

Even the most devoted couple will experience a "stormy" bout once in a while. A grandmother, celebrating her golden wedding anniversary, once told the secret of her long and happy marriage. "On my wedding day, I decided to make a list of ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I would overlook," she said.

A guest asked the woman what some of the faults she had chosen to overlook were. The grandmother replied, "To tell you the truth, my dear, I never did get around to listing them. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, 'Lucky for him that's one of the ten!'" (From Carl D. Windsor) “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1Cor. 13:7).

## Choose This Day

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

Becoming a Christian and living the Christian life is not by divine decree or accident, but by choice. We need to "choose this day whom we will serve" because in the Judgment Day the Lord will do the choosing for us. His choice then will depend on our choice now. Paul said, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16). What shall it be? Will you choose to follow in the way of Christ and live, or will you follow in the way of Satan and die?

## Musts for All Christians

“And He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?’” (Luke 2:49). “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4). Following in the steps of Jesus, we suggest some personal “musts” for all Christians:

- I must be willing to stand alone if necessary.
- I must be willing to go against public opinion in order to promote truth.
- I must be willing to risk failure in converting most people.

- I must become master of my emotions.
- I must strive to remain above reproach.
- I must be willing to make decisions others don't want to make.
- I must be willing to say "no" at times, even when I would like to say "yes."
- I must be willing to sacrifice personal interests for the good of the local church.
- I must never be content with the average, but must strive for excellence.
- I must always place people above possessions.
- I must always be abounding in the work of the Lord.

### **Ten Reasons Why We Must Reach Out To People**

1. Unless God was mistaken in His concern, we must reach out to people.
2. Unless God's revelation of Himself in Christ was a meaningless gesture, we must reach out to people.
3. Unless Jesus blundered when He created the church, we must reach out to people.
4. Unless the disciples misunderstood what Jesus told them to do, we must reach out to people.
5. Unless no one is presently in bondage to sin, we must reach out to people.
6. Unless the penalty for sin is no longer death, we must reach out to people.
7. Unless the gospel is no longer the Good News, we must reach out to people.
8. Unless God's "whosever will" has been withdrawn, we must reach out to people.
9. Unless the Kingdom of God has vanished from the earth, we must reach out to people.
10. Unless Christ's coming for His own has been canceled, we must reach out to people.

### **A Moments Wisdom on Prayer**

- There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God. (Nicholas Herman of Lorraine, c. 1666)
- He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life. (William Law, 1726)
- We can prove the reality of prayer only by praying. (Sherwood Eddy, 1930)
- For whatever high reasons, men of prayer must knock and knock – sometimes with bleeding knuckles in the dark. (George A. Buttrick, 1942)
- Of all the things the world now desperately needs, none is more needed than an upsurge of vital, God-centered, intelligently grounded prayer. (Georgia Harkness, 1948)
- What is the use of praying if at the very moment of prayer we have so little confidence in God that we are busy planning our own kind of answer to our prayer? (Thomas Merton, 1958)
- If your knees are knocking, kneel on them. (Sign outside London Air Raid Post, World War II)
- When in prayer you clasp your hands, God opens his. (German proverb)
- No enemy can come so near that God is not nearer.
- If you have God's promises for a matter, His promise is enough.
- In order to mold His people, God often has to melt them first.