

The Road to Forgiveness

Sermon Title: **The Road to Forgiveness**

Sermon Number: **5784**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

Link to sermon audio - <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5784.mp3>

Link to sermon video - <http://theark.s3.amazonaws.com/vid/5784.mp4>



BrothersofTheWord.com

Nathaniel Bronner: When you have unforgiveness, it allows the demonic to armor up and it allows them to keep so many of the divine things that God has for your world out of your world.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is Part 1 of the series titled "The Road to Forgiveness" subtitled "Acknowledging the Offense" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5784, that's 5784. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:27 - 00:00:54)

Female: And now for 5784, "The Road to Forgiveness" Part 1, "Acknowledging the Offense".

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. And today is part one of a series that God breathed into my spirit. And I do believe that it's going to be for a lot of people who perhaps have wrestled with this very issue. And oftentimes, God will have just -- my brothers and I just on the same path and on the same course. And C. Elijah, he's been preaching on the weekday word, he's been preaching a series called "Walking in Love" and it's an awesome series. You can go to brothersoftheword.com, listen to the series. It will greatly bless you.

And as I ask God I said, "Lord, what next do I preach? I want to be in line with your will. What next do I preach?" I don't preach when I want to preach. I try to get what does God want me to say. And God spoke the name of this series which part one is today. And the name is simply "The Road to Forgiveness. The Road to Forgiveness."

And I believe this is something that -- forgiveness is critical to our healing, our forgiveness, and our salvation. Let me read to you what Jesus said about this in Matthew Chapter 6, Verse 12. You've heard this so many times before because this is a part of the most popular prayer on the face of the Earth. This is a part of the Lord's prayer, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." For some verses, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

In plain English, what it says is basically, "Lord, forgive me as I forgive others." Now, the corollary of that or the antithesis of the

other side of that is basically, if I don't forgive others, I don't get forgiven, "Lord, if I want to be forgiven much, let me forgive much."

Now, these are the words of Jesus and this is how Jesus told us to pray. And right after the Lord's prayer, right after that Amen, it goes into Verse 14 where Jesus says, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you your trespasses." This is Jesus talking so I always liked to go to what I call "the highest source".

Jesus said He couldn't do anything and He didn't see what daddy does. So this is what Jesus is talking about. Not John, not Paul, not anybody, it's Jesus. Jesus is the one who washes our sins. This is the ultimate source. So, Jesus says that -- He said, "Look, if you don't forgive folks their trespasses neither will God forgive you yours." No other -- it's Jesus talking. This is the one who stands at the gate, it's Jesus talking and He says it plain and simple. He didn't put any of the criteria behind it by how much you're down on your knees praying, praising the Lord.

He said, "Look, if you don't forgive other folk, neither will God forgive you of your stuff." Now, I can see some instances where you don't need this. And you don't need this if you haven't done anything. If you have nothing to be forgiven for, you don't even need it because you're perfect. So, you don't need forgiving if you haven't done anything. But turn to your neighbor and just tell them, "I don't know about you, but I need some forgiving."

See now, it may be some of you are like -- you just haven't done anything. You walk around with just a halo around your head all day, you just haven't done anything.

00:05:00

I don't know about you, but I need some forgiving because it's just some stuff I have just done that I need forgiveness. And see, even if I haven't done and I thought about it, and would you say, "You've done it in your heart," it's just like, "I thought about it so it's just some of the stuff -- I'm glad there's not a scream with some of the stuff going through the pastor's head."

I'm just telling you the truth about it. I thought about some stuff so I need forgiving. There are some stuff that I should have done. See, I've committed some sins that are sins of omission. There's some stuff God has told me to do and I just haven't done everything God told me to do. Then if I have done it, I am -- have done it. Have you all ever had that situation, God tell you to do some -- number one, you'd regret about doing it, number two you do it to the bare itty-bitty minimum, just a squeeze by.

So sometimes even if I did do it, I didn't have to do it. I've got some stuff that I need forgiving for and it may not be talking about you. So if you're perfect, this doesn't apply to you, because you don't have anything you need to be forgiven for. But if you've got some stuff that you have done that you need forgiving for, Jesus says very plain and very simple. And there's no getting around. He said, "If you don't forgive those who trespass against you, neither will my father forgive you your trespasses." Very simple.

Sometimes, the biblical stuff is just deep and you got to go through an interpreter, that's plain, that's real clear and its ironclad. Now, I'm not sure some folk can twist it up but that's pretty clear. If you don't forgive other folk, God won't forgive you. That's just real clear.

But the problem is forgiveness is not easy especially when people have hurt you or people have done you wrong. See, it's not only the problem when people have done you wrong. Some of you are in the situation right now, folks still doing you wrong, they're still doing you wrong. Forgiveness, it's just not easy.

So that's why the series, "The Road to Forgiveness" and that's why God says there are some people -- He said many people and you don't need to miss a single one of these messages because if you don't forgive, you cannot get forgiven. And there's a whole lot of things, unforgiveness, it just affects so much stuff in your world, not just in this world but it affects your very salvation.

So, if you can't get your sins wiped clean then how you're going to get on into your eternal life. So, there are just some things we need to understand and we need to know about "The Road to Forgiveness".

So, part one of “The Road to Forgiveness” is simply acknowledging the offense, acknowledging the offense. Do I harbor anything against anyone? Jesus said basically just even concerning your offering. In Matthew 5:23, “So therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and they remember that your brother has something against you. Leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, you go and be reconciled to your brother then come and offer your gift.”

I understand that verse, I even tell you, I’ll do that because we’d have to have a big safe down here, locked up, waiting on folk to come back and get their offering so they can put it in church. Basically, Jesus said, “Look, the church doesn’t even need your offering if you have ought or have not reconciled with your brother,” and that’s a deep statement. He said, “Bring your gift to the altar, not hold it in your pocket but leave it there and go get it straight with your brother and then come back.” That’s deep.

You’re not going to hear any pastors telling anybody to do that with their offering because the church would not be able to pay its bills. No, I’m just being real with you. I’m not going to tell you to do that because we’d have to have to a safe locked up down here, with all kind of money and it calls folks still won’t go and get straight with their brothers. So, this is what Jesus says. He said, “Look, the Church don’t even need your money until you go and get stuff straight with your brothers.” So, it’s the road to forgiveness. It’s not an easy road. But it is an absolutely necessary road. And oftentimes, we get so much stuff.

There was a pastor and his name was Dr. Crane. And he had a lady come to him, and she said, “Pastor, I’m getting ready to leave my love. I’m going to leave him but I ain’t just going to leave him, I want to hurt him. So, I don’t want to just divorce him. I want to destroy him because this man just hurt me and I want to mess him up.” Now, this is the real story. She said, “I don’t wanna mess him up,” and you do know there’s some folk like that in the Church. They don’t want to just leave him, they want to mess him up when they leave him. She said, Pastor, I want to mess him up.”

So, he said, "Look, I got a good plan. This is what you do. Just go and mess him up good, just go and get it. So, what I want you to do is for three months, I want you to just be so loving, I want you to praise him, I want you to tell him you love him, I want you to cater to his every need. I want you to just see about this man, hand and foot. I want you to just congratulate him and just build him because when you do this for three months, then, after the three months, you drop the bomb on him. And then you tell him, 'I'm leaving. I'm divorcing you,'" and see, "Because right now, Pastor --" "Look, if you leave him right now, to be honest, I'm not sure he's not going to be glad you're gone. And that won't really hurt him. So, if you really want to hurt him, if you really want to hit him and you really want to punch him, you really want to knock him out, if you really want to get back and for three months, you just treat this man like a king and you just praise him and you just love on, you just hug him for three months. And then at the end of that three months, you come back and you tell this rascal, 'I am divorcing you,'" and you say, "You come back to my office, I will help you with your divorce papers. In three months, you (00:11:08) this rascal, you're leaving him and that's going to knock him." That, that's going to completely devastate him and destroy him because he won't be expecting you'll get in there.

She said, "Pastor, that sure sounds like a good idea." She said, "I can see how that's going to work. Yeah, I can see that, he won't see that coming. I'm going to go home, I'm going to do what you say and in three months, I'm going to be back to you with the papers and I'm going to destroy that rascal."

Three months later, she knocked on the Pastor's door. The Pastor opened the door, she came in and said, "Well, are you ready for the divorce?" She said, "Pastor, for three months, I have been telling this man, I love this man. I have been catering to this man. I have been praising this man. I've been congratulating this man." And she said, "Pastor, about after a month for that, see, first of all, in the first week, he was wondering, 'What was up?' He thought I wanted something. Now, he was right. But after the first week, he thought I wanted something, then by the second week, he really went to scratching his head. Then by the time it hit the third and the fourth week, he started getting comfortable. Then when it was started going into the second month, just as I was loving on him and start praising him and just congratulating him, when it started moving to the second

month, Pastor, he thought of loving me. And then he thought of congratulating me. And then he thought of praising me. And then he thought of standing by me. By the time I'm squeezing into the second month, somehow, Pastor, then we moved into the third month, Pastor, it was like it was a whole new man. Pastor, I just don't know what happened. Now, I just love this man."

So, sometimes when we can change our mentality and see when we can forgive, see oftentimes motion causes emotion. So, the motion that we make causes our emotion to change. And if we claim to be Christian, and if we are Christian, forgiveness is a fundamental part of the very basis of Christianity. That's what Christ came to die for our sins. To get us washed clean, but the requirement is, you shall be forgiven as you forgive. It's required of you.

And you will find that as you begin to forgive others, stuff changes. But first, you've got to acknowledge the offense. And some of us may say, "Well, you know, I really don't have anything against anybody," and maybe you don't but there are so many who still harbor stuff. And then sometimes, you can look in and then you can tell, well, how do you know we're harboring some stuff? And there are often signs with that. And usually, there are several signs that will tell you that you're harboring some stuff.

Do you know even the Church has that issue with Pope getting offended? Absolutely. The church is one of the biggest places that Pope gets offended because the Pope could just be is sensitive sometimes. The Pope is just a little sensitive. Even the Pope gets offended even in the Church.

One of the first ways that you can tell that you are offended is number one, you stop associating, you stop coming to Church or if somebody else and they offended you, you stop calling and you stop talking to him, you won't answer their text, you won't answer their email. You see their phone and you'd hit the red button. You stop associating. And we have to understand and we have to learn when we are victims of the spirit of offense, it's one of the basic things of unforgiveness.

00:15:00

Second thing is you have a negative feeling whenever you're around them, whenever you hear their name as you know some

just kind go over you. You all know where I'm coming? When you hear their name, some of them just kind of over you. And it's not a smile, the minute you hear that name, if you look at your face, it kind of -- there's this look that comes over your face. It's a spirit of resentment, but it's rooted in unforgiveness the minute you just hear the mention of their name.

Third thing is you have a tendency to speak negative about them. No matter whether they're doing some positive, "Oh, that was a great song that they sang. Yeah, but the hair weren't right." So, you find something negative about anything that they do and you fail or you're blinded to the positive that they have.

Fourth thing, you distrust them. You don't trust anything that they say and sometimes, I'm not saying that some people are worthy to be trusted, but sometimes, you have and they've done one thing and you distrust them for everything else in the future.

The fifth thing is betrayal. Sometimes, you just were just betrayed for because you have this unforgiveness, because you feel that you have been offended by them.

Number six is, your prayer is not answered. See, when you have unforgiveness, it blocks up your heavenly stuff.

And number seven, when people have a spirit of offense, they get into rebellion about things because not just the church -- do you know one of the main thing people get offended by is by God himself? "God let my momma die. God let my marriage break-up. God let my child die. Why did this happen to me? If God loves me, God wouldn't have let this happen to me." And as a result, when people experience a tragedy that they don't understand, they then become mad with God.

And you'll find a lot of people who won't come to Church, and then in the Church, they say, they went through something, "And I don't see how a loving God could have let this happen to me." And as a result, they will never be right with God because they have become offended by something they think God did.

And finally, they just won't let the past go. Some people who have a spirit of offense and unforgiveness no matter what, they just won't let the past go. And sometimes, when we're faced with this stuff, we've got to learn how to let stuff go.

There was a story, a man and his wife they just had a bad argument and there was just a whole lot of strife and offense between them. And the Holy Spirit was nudging the man to apologize and he was just pride from it and just, "I ain't apologizing. I just ain't going to apologize." And in the middle of the night, the man had an open vision and the Holy Spirit began to speak to him and show him something. And what he saw, he saw a demon. But the demon was the opposite of the warrior of Christ. When you have a helmet on, and the breastplate, and your loins girded up, and your feet shod(ph), we've all heard that verse and talked about it so much about putting on the whole armor of God.

Just as are there are the divine, there is the demonic. The demons have armor, too. And what he saw in what the Holy Spirit revealed in his vision, the demon wore the helmet of pride and the breastplate of unrighteousness. He carried a sword of bitterness. And the shield of hatred from his built hung a hammer of judgment.

A cloak of deception in his feet were shod(ph) with the boots of anger. So, he was able to see the demon dressed up in the whole armor of the devil. It's not just God who has a whole armor. demons have it. And when you have unforgiveness, it allows the demonic to armor up, and it allows them to keep so many of the divine things that God has for your world out of your world.

Colossians Chapter 3 beginning Verse 12 says this, this is deep because we talk about lot of times, worried about the end times and wars and all that kinds of stuff. But when we look at some other things, we'll understand some things. And he says, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another."

Let me read that again, "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you and overall these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity."

So we talk about all of the end times is coming, the wars, the rumors of wars, the earthquakes, and all these kinds of stuff

Jesus talks about. There were most of us we never talk about that main thing that Jesus talks about. And this is in Matthew Chapter 24 beginning at that third verse. And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came onto him privately saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of thy coming and at the end of the world."

00:20:02

And Jesus answered and said unto them, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name saying, 'I am Christ,' and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, see that ye not be troubled for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there should be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in various(ph) places. All these are the beginnings of sorrow. Then they shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you, and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."

And that's some pretty rough stuff. Wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, pestilences, delivering you up to be afflicted and killed, that's some pretty rough stuff. But then when it gets to Verse 10 and after all these rough stuff that happened, they were still holding solid in Christ. But when it gets to Verse 10, "And then shall many be offended and they shall betray one another, and shall hate one another, and many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because inequity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

And it was interesting that all of these other stuff, nothing really bad happened to the souls of the people until they became offended. And once they became offended, the love waxed cold and the demonic was able to come where earthquakes and wars and all these stuff could not destroy the souls of the people once they became offended. They opened the door to the demonic and the love of many waxed cold. And when that happens, you open yourself up to a whole different world.

Proverbs 18:19 says, "A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city." We've got to learn how to, first of all, recognize the truth and acknowledge when we have been offended. You have to first recognize anything before you can fix it. And some of you right now, you're holding some stuff against some foes. And some

of those stuff been years ago. "You know what he did to me back in 19 so and so," and you still have not forgotten, you still are not letting it go.

Every time you hear their name, some steel comes over you because you still hold the spirit of offense and you still have unforgiveness from all that time ago, and this stuff binds you, it binds you. So, we have to learn on this series as we deal with the road to forgiveness. When we get all of these stuff out of us, and it's not for the other person, this is for us, it will transform us.

And I heard God speak to me as I was in prayer this morning, a deep statement, he said, "The road to forgiveness is the road to freedom." Some of you are bound up right now because of unforgiveness. "The road to forgiveness is the road to freedom," and God wants us all free, but we got to let some stuff go. And if we want to be forgiven of our trespasses, we must forgive others of theirs. And there some of you right now and God has spoken, you don't need to miss a single one of these messages on the road to forgiveness for the road to forgiveness is the road to freedom.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. You can go to brothersoftheword.com, listen to the entire series absolutely free. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. Amen.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This was part 1 of the series titled "The Road to Forgiveness" subtitled "Acknowledging the Offense" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5784, that's 5784. To listen to over a thousand free messages or to send this message number 5784 to a friend, go to brothersoftheword.com.

Male: If this message has been a blessing to you, and you would like to help support this ministry, go to iwanttogive.com, that's iwanttogive.com.

Female: Listen to brothersoftheword.com often because brother, you need the word.

(Music Playing)

00:24:33