GONE!

My Sin•My Sorrow•My Shame



Total Forgiveness (Part 2)

Gone - Episode Four "Total Forgiveness" (Part 2) Rev. Richard C. Whitcomb rev.whitcomb@revrcw.com

Review from Part One

What Forgiveness is NOT:

- 1. Forgiveness is not excusing the offender.
- 2. Forgiveness is not pretending you are not hurt.
- 3. Forgiveness is not an emotion.

How Can I Forgive Others?

1. Remember how much God has forgiven me.
2. Release the
Matthew 6:12 - "and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."
Releasing others involves two steps:
• Give up the right to
• Give up the right to
Romans 12:17-19 - "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, 'I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it,' says the Lord."
3. Recognize God can use this for
Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the

called according to His purpose."

Genesis 50:19-20 - "But Joseph told them, 'Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish you? As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil. He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many people."

Memory Verse for this week:

"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, 'I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it,' says the Lord." - Romans 12:17-19

Study Questions:

- 1. Pastor Whitcomb told a story from the Congo about a husband and wife who quarreled. This nearly resulted in a divorce. But the wife used wisdom to save the marriage when she advised her husband that together they could wash the leaves from the roof of their home. What can we learn from this story? What does it mean to "wash the leaves" when you are angry with someone else? Think of an action you can take today to help mend a broken relationship.
- 2. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus made a powerful statement. He said that we will be forgiven <u>in the same way</u> we forgive others. Matthew 6:12: "and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us." AS means in the same way. AS means that you are going to release others the way you want to be released by God. How do you want God to forgive you? This is the same way you must forgive others.
- 3. When Jesus hung on the cross, he prayed, "Father, forgive them." Those who crucified him did not show any remorse or repentance at that time. None of them apologized to Jesus. Thus, we can see that our forgiving others does not depend on them apologizing to us. Have you been waiting for someone who wronged you to come and apologize to you? Release them today even if they never tell you they are sorry.
- 4. Make a list of people who have hurt you or offended you. Pray over this list and ask God to forgive each of these people. Now ask the Lord to bless them today.

Pray this prayer today:

"Lord, today, I forgive (<u>name the person who has offended you or wronged you</u>) for (<u>name the offense committed against you</u>). Show me any action I need to take to re-establish the relationship. Help me to forgive others as much as you have forgiven me. I release all those who have sinned against me and I ask you to forgive them today. Bless each of them. Heal my hurts and fill my heart with your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

