

Red Letter Part 1: Be Forgiving

(Hebrews 12:2-3 NASB) Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Luke 23:34 NIV) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Principle #1: Forgive everyone who's trying to ruin your life.

Sources of Un-forgiveness

- ✓ **Betrayal**
- ✓ **False accusation**
- ✓ **Rejection**
- ✓ **Abuse**
- ✓ **Humiliation**

(Hebrews 2:17-18 Message) "He had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed."

Be Forgiving

(1 Peter 2:23 LB) "When Jesus suffered, He did not threaten to get even; He left His case in the hands of God..."

1. Forgive them because I need forgiveness.

(Matthew 6:15 NIV) "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

2. Forgive them without condition.

(Ephesians 4:32 NIV) "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

3. Forgive them in advance.

(Luke 11:4 NIV) "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us."

4. Forgive them because they are victims too.

(Ephesians 6:12 NIV) "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."