

Forgive Others as You Are Forgiven

Matthew 6:12,14,15; Mark 11:25,26

Roadblocks are never fun to encounter when we're on a trip. We either have to wait for the roadblock to be cleared or go back and try another route. The bottom line is that as long as the roadblock is there, we won't get to our destination unless another action is taken.

Sometimes on the road to receiving God's forgiveness, we run headlong into a major roadblock. It might not even be apparent to us at the time, but it keeps us from receiving forgiveness. The roadblock often is our own unwillingness to forgive someone else.

Jesus made it clear that an unforgiving attitude can block God's forgiveness. In Matthew 6:14,15, He declared,

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.

Also, in Mark 11:25, Jesus said, "When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Take a moment to examine your heart and attitudes. Are you harboring an unforgiving attitude toward someone else? If so, it's important to make things right with that person as well as with God. Then God's forgiveness and blessings can be released to you.

Is there someone you have been unable to forgive? What steps can you take to make things right?

What difference might it make in your life (and the other person's life) if you offer forgiveness?