

"Forgiveness Keeps You FREE" – Matthew 5:23-24

In one of JESUS' first messages he gives the core principle for relationships. He also shows the premium the Father puts on this principle by linking it to a serious warning.

- 1.** In this life one thing is for sure, sooner or later you will take a severe _____.
- David – ran from _____ for 10 years
 - Joseph - sold into _____, then imprisoned _____.
 - Moses – lived as an outcast for _____ years in the desert
 - Paul – the _____. **2 Cor. 11:24-28**
 - The Lord JESUS – _____ for us! **1 Peter 3:18**

- 2.** Some of the reasons we will be mistreated:
- A. We do _____. (the Holy Spirit will help you)
 - B. _____ do dumb things.
 - C. We live in a _____ (with casualties) **Eph. 6:10**
 - D. We have an _____ that hates us. (the trap) **Eph. 6:11**
 - E. We have a God who _____ us. God will use _____ to teach us His character. **Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 6:6-9**
 - F. We attempt to minister to others and find out that _____.

- 3. The Bad News:**
You can do everything right and still get _____.
John 15:20

The Good News:
God promises all things will turn out for our good if we _____
_____ in every situation. **Romans 8:28**

- A. His perspective in **Matthew 5:10-12** "_____ are you."
- B. Every difficult situation will make you either: _____
Or _____

- 4.** When people hurt us, God _____ us to _____ them.
- We do it for our _____ first.
 - Nothing will _____ you quicker than unforgiveness.
 - Unforgiveness stops the _____.
 - And _____ replaces it. **Heb. 12:15**

5. If you don't forgive, you will get _____.

The "Downward Steps of Bitterness" are:

- A. The _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

6. You can tell if you are bitter if: (not easy to see) **Matthew 7:1-5**

- A. You _____ because of past injustice (not healed).
- B. You carry around _____ of people who hurt you and their offenses.
- C. You have closed off the past in _____, or you continue to _____ on the past.
- D. You are _____, quick to _____, people walk on egg shells around you, you have a quick _____.

7. Only one antidote will rid you of the emotional poison of bitterness:

_____. Luke 23:34