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## Love Keeps no Record of Wrong: The Power and Necessity of Forgiveness

*A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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I remember talking to one of my friends about a challenge that he was having with a mutual friend. The two of us were sitting down and I said: "Hey Mark, do you remember when you, Bill and I used to walk all over the city until the sun went down." He laughed and said: "Yes, I remember." I then said: "I don't hear you talk about Bill anymore. Are things between you two going ok?" His voice, which was once filled with joy and laughter, suddenly became serious. His tone became a bit angry, and his brow became wrinkled. He said: "You know Curry, Bill never repaid the five dollars that owed me. It has been three years since he borrowed it."

I knew the extent to which Mark value money; therefore, I said: "Don't worry about it. I'll give you five dollars on behalf of Bill just to keep the peace." He said: "No, Bill borrowed it and he's going to return it.

I don't plan on speaking to him until he does."

I couldn't believe that the two of them were going to let five dollars ruin a friendship. However, as a pastor and chaplain, I was able to recall situations in which one lie ruined a marriage, one misperception ruined an employment opportunity, one mistake ruined a bond between family members, one belief ruined self-esteem, and how one devil ruined a Christian's trust and dependence on God.

The idea and reality of forgiveness, whether the idea concerns ourselves or others, can be difficult work. Sometimes we are able to forgive people for something that they've done to us with relative ease and comfort because what they said or what they've done has not reached the heart and core of who we are as human beings. However, there are times when people have harmed us, and forgive-

ness becomes a difficult and challenging task. There are also times when we have forgotten about the mistakes we've made, and all that the Lord has done for us. As Christians, we have a responsibility to seek forgiveness from God, to forgive ourselves and to forgive others for what they've done to us. The gospel will live, the Christ we preach, the God we serve requires us to forgive. One day a disciple name Peter came to Jesus and said: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him, until seven times? And, Jesus said unto him, I say not unto thee: but until seventy times seven (Matthew 18:21)."

As we process though Lent and proceed to Easter, let us strive to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Paul reminds us that true love keeps no record of wrong (I Corinthians 13:5).