

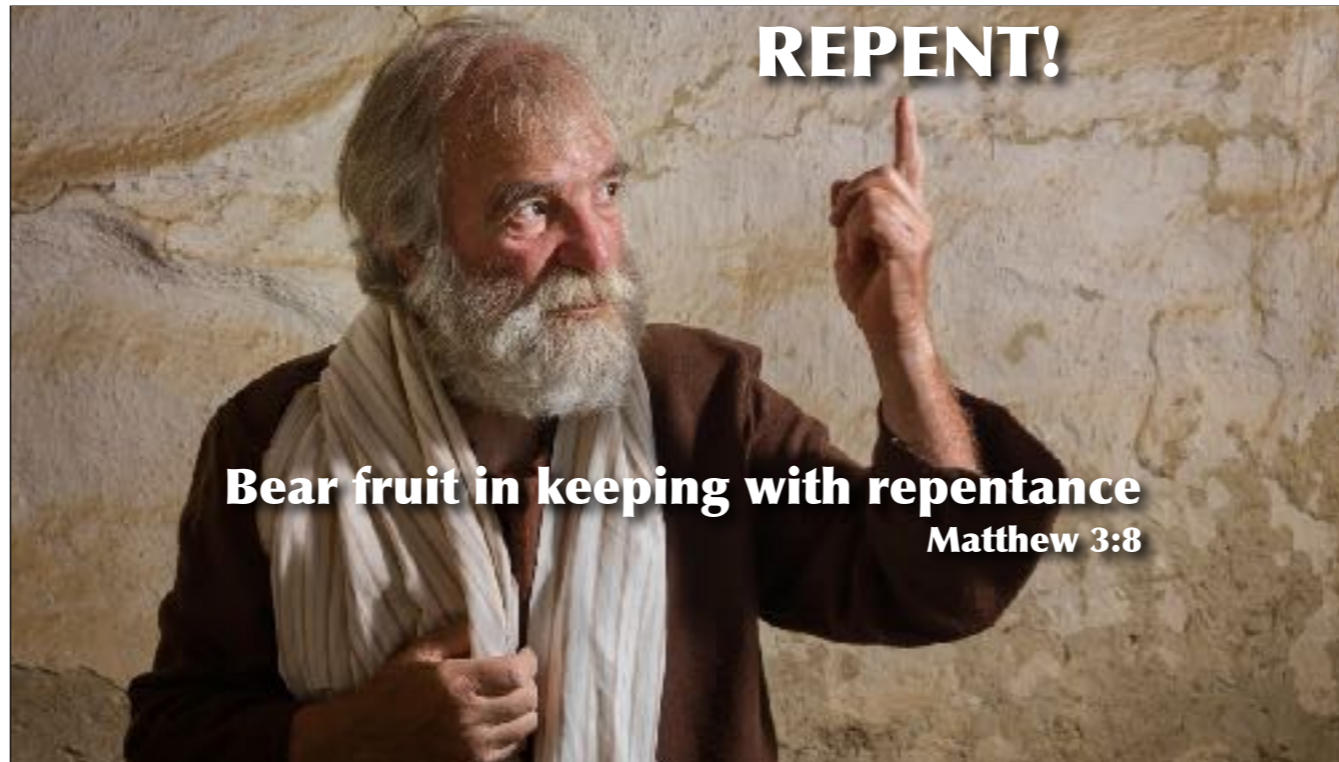
**Can There Be
Forgiveness
Without
Repentance?**

Luke 17:3-4



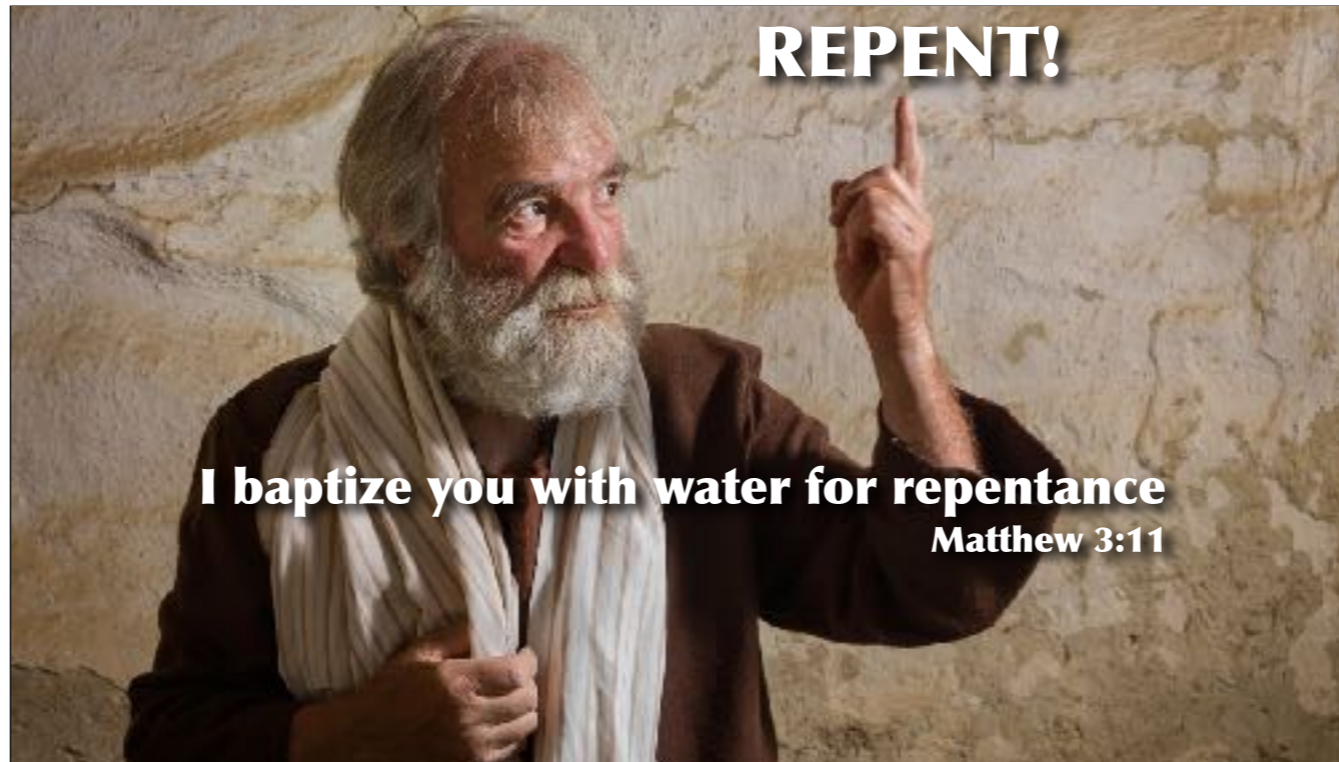


- Matthew 3:1-2 (ESV) 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



- Matthew 3:8 (ESV) 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

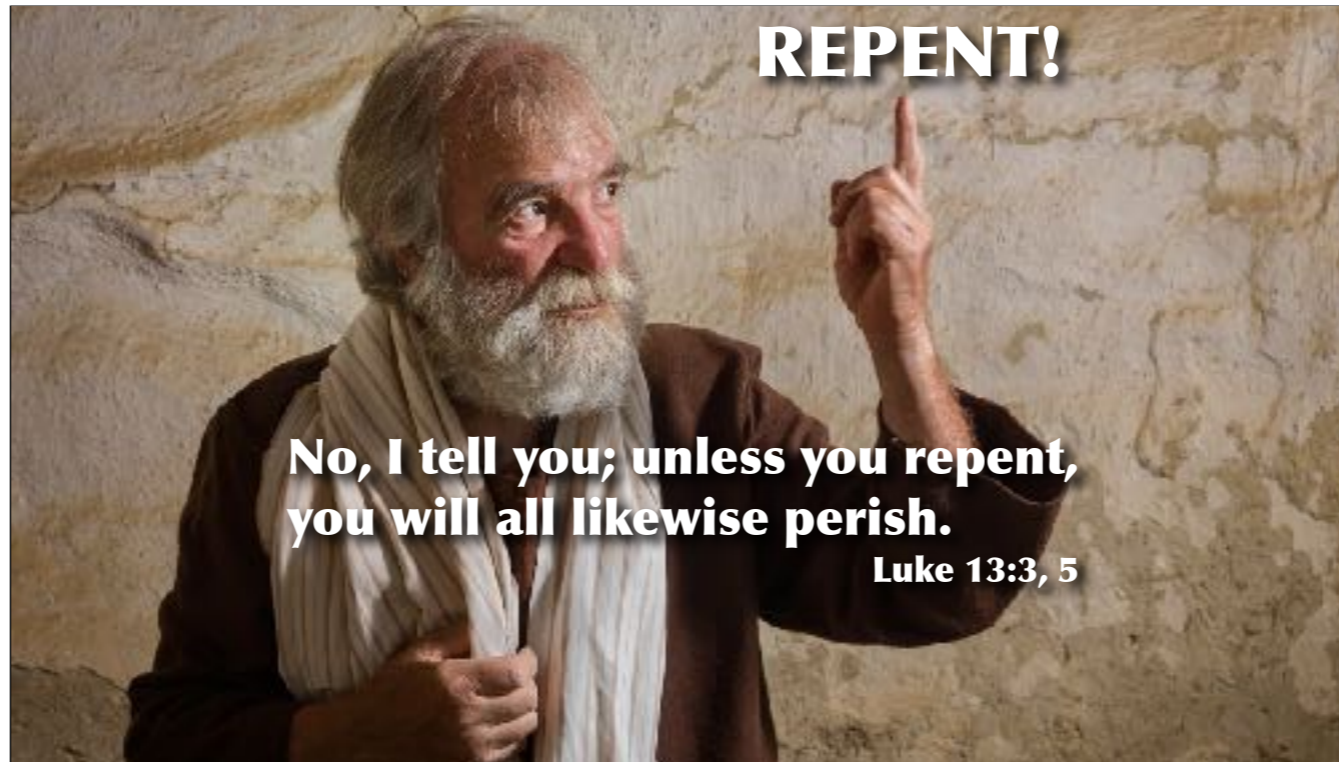
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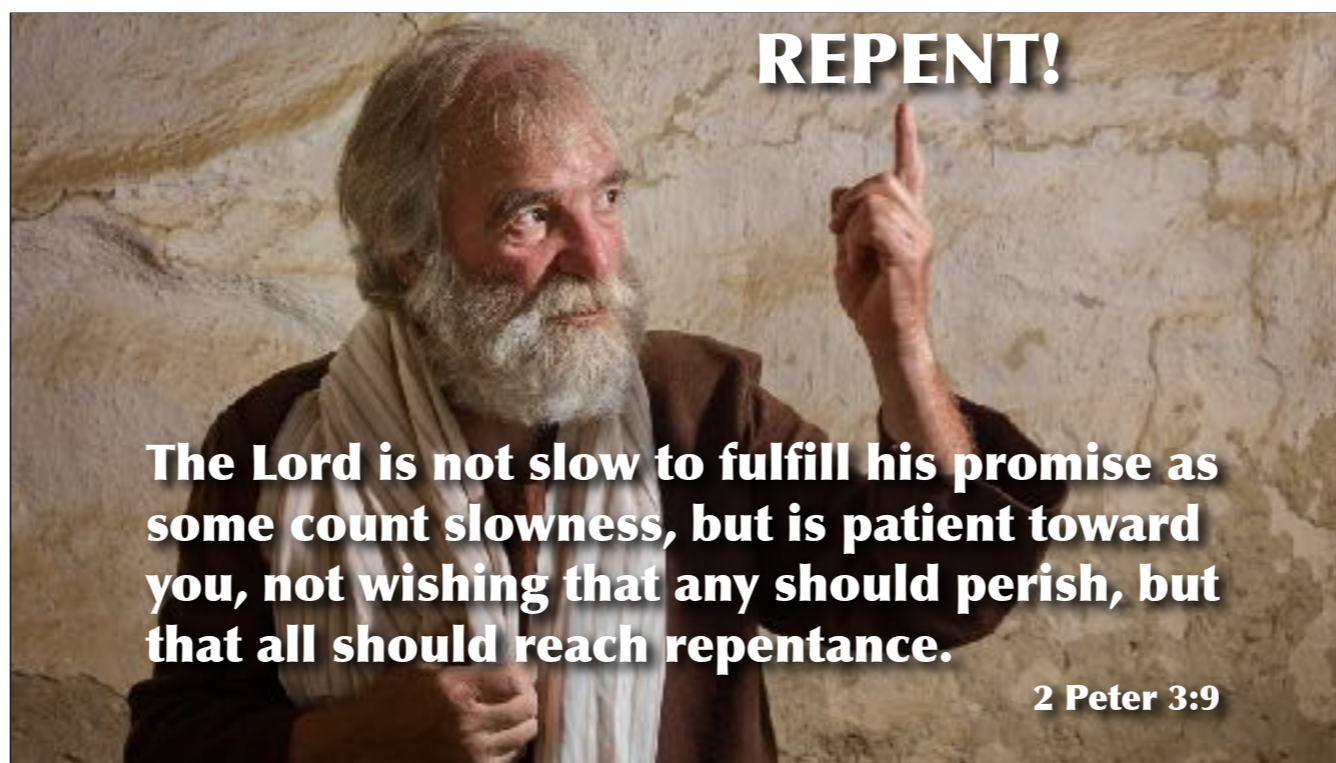
- Matthew 3:11 (ESV) 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.



- Matthew 4:17 (ESV) 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



- Luke 13:1-5 (ESV) 1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

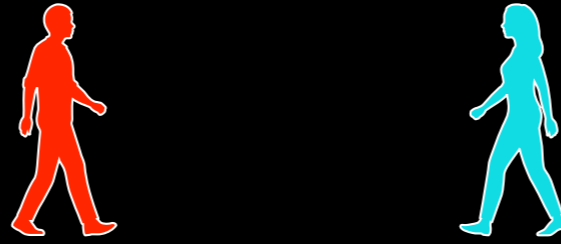


- 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

If he repents, forgive him.

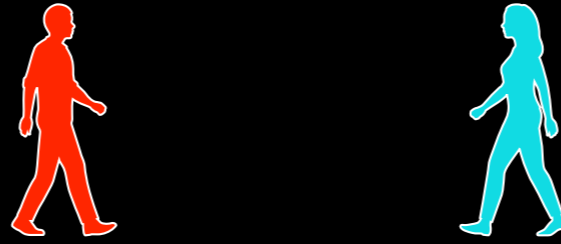
- Luke 17:1-10
 - 1-2: Temptations and tempters
 - 3-4: Repent and Forgive
 - 5-6: Increase Our Faith
 - 7-10: Unworthy Servants
- Luke 17:3-4: 3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Pay attention to yourselves!



- Luke 17:3 (ESV) 3 Pay attention to yourselves!
 - Warning.
- May be connected to the past verses, not to cause someone to sin.
- May be connected also to the following verses, warning of the danger of failing to forgive.

Pay attention to yourselves!



- Either way, Jesus wants us to take this teaching seriously and consider our actions and attitudes:
 - What we do may affect the spiritual condition of others.
 - If we tempt them to sin, or if we fail to forgive them.

If your brother sins, rebuke him.

I gossiped.



I rebuke you!



- Luke 17:3 — If your brother sins, rebuke him
- Rebuke
 - (MED) Rebuking can take a number of forms, such as
 - making someone aware of a sin (Mt. 18:15, “Go and show him his fault”),
 - exposing sin (Jn. 3:20, “His deeds will be exposed”),
 - and/or convincing someone of guilt (Jn. 8:46, “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?”).

If your brother sins, rebuke him.

I gossiped.



God teaches that gossip is evil. Let's study Romans 1:29.



- What is the motivation of rebuke?
 - fix? hurt? get back? point out sin? lord over?
 - love? help? save?

If your brother sins, rebuke him.

I gossiped.

God teaches that
gossip is evil. Let's study
Romans 1:29.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Galatians 6:1

- Galatians 6:1 —

- Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.
- Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

If he repents, forgive him

I repent.



I forgive you.



- Luke 17:3 — and if he repents, forgive him,
 - Pay attention to yourselves
 - There are no conditions given for the repentance by Jesus in this passage.
 - It doesn't say there have to be tears.
 - What's behind our desire to judge the sincerity and truth of someone's repentance?

If he repents, forgive him

I repent.



I forgive you.



- Matthew 3:8 (ESV) 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. (John to Pharisees)
 - What are our expectations for the fruit of repentance? Are they biblical, or opinion?
 - How do we judge their hearts?

If he repents, forgive him

I repent.



I forgive you.



- Jonah was angry when Nineveh repented, disappointed that they didn't suffer God's wrath.
 - Does this point to the reason for our struggle?
 - We are upset about the sin, we want the sinner to suffer.
 - So forgiveness doesn't come easily because of my own attitudes.
 - Pay attention.

**If he sins against you seven times in the day,
and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,'
you must forgive him.**

I sinned.



I forgive you.



- Luke 17:4 — and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."
 - If forgiving for one sin is hard, how much more difficult is 7 times?
 - Doesn't say if it is or is not the same sin or seven different ones.

**If he sins against you seven times in the day,
and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,'
you **MUST** forgive him.**

I repent.



I forgive you.



- If he repents 7 times, I **MUST** forgive.
 - There's very little room here for judging the sincerity of their repentance!

If he repents, forgive him



- This passage is often used to make the point that there can be no forgiveness given unless the sinner first repents.
- Have we misunderstood this teaching?
 - It seems we read it like this ...
 - If, and only if, he repents;
 - Then, and only then, you must forgive.

If he repents, forgive him



- Thus, we feel justified in not forgiving someone who doesn't repent.
- Some fall into the temptation of dealing with those who have sinned against us in a decidedly unchristlike way.
 - We come to them with the expectation, the demand, that they immediately, humbly, and profusely repent.
 - Their repentance must meet all my standards of satisfaction.

If he repents, forgive him



- Our approach is one of lording their sin over them, not of seeking to help them turn back to righteousness and God.
 - But I cannot control the sinner.
 - And I am whittling and worrying about the wrong end of the stick.
 - My focus must be on thinking and acting Christlike toward the sinner.

If he repents, forgive him



- They must repent or I cannot forgive
 - Where is my focus?
 - Am I more concerned about following my own rules/traditions or about being forgiving, gracious, and merciful like my Father.

If he repents, forgive him



- Doing things the right way does matter! Obedience is vital.
- Weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23)
- Am I more concerned about myself, or about helping the one who has sinned.

If he repents, forgive him

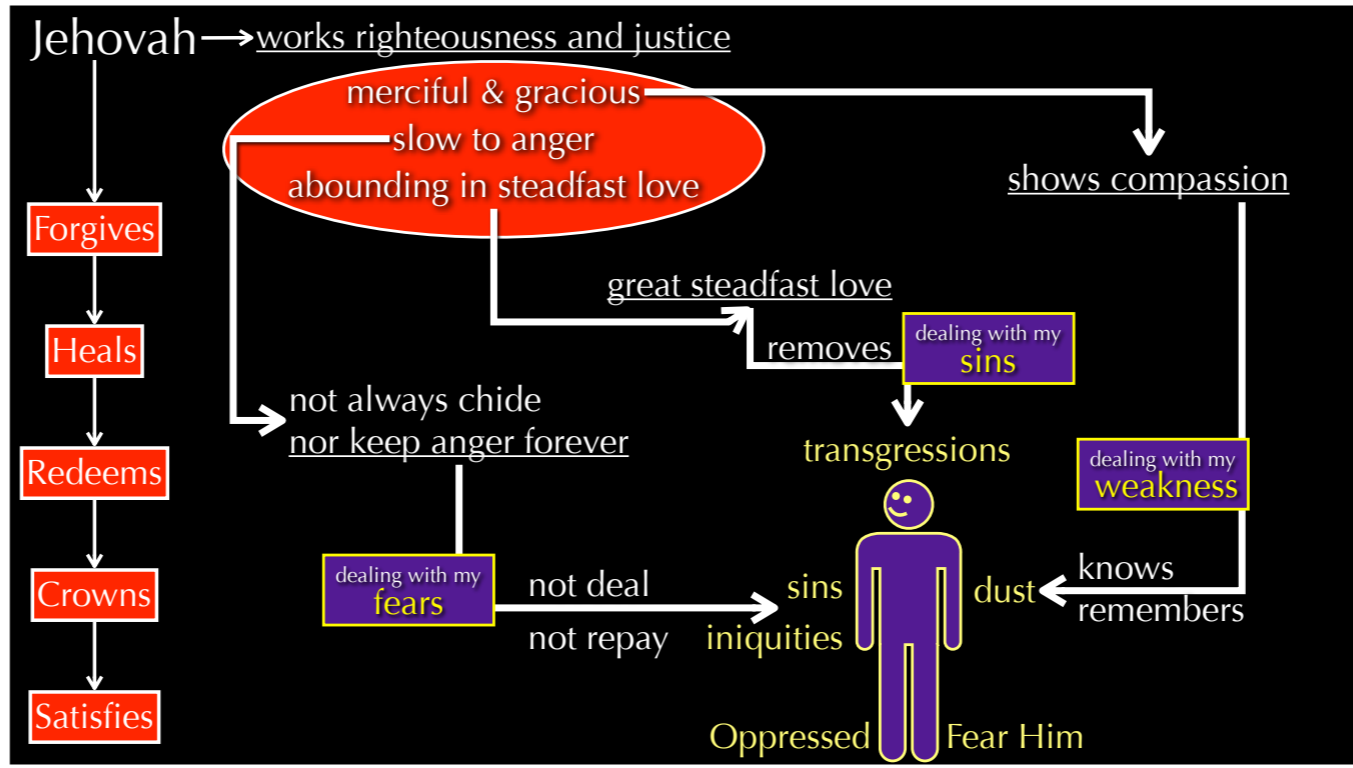


- Am I looking for reasons NOT to forgive?
 - Or am I concerned about I can do to restore our relationship.
- .Perhaps a key to seeing ourselves clearly would be to consider our prayers to God about this situation?
 - What are my prayers to God about the sinner?

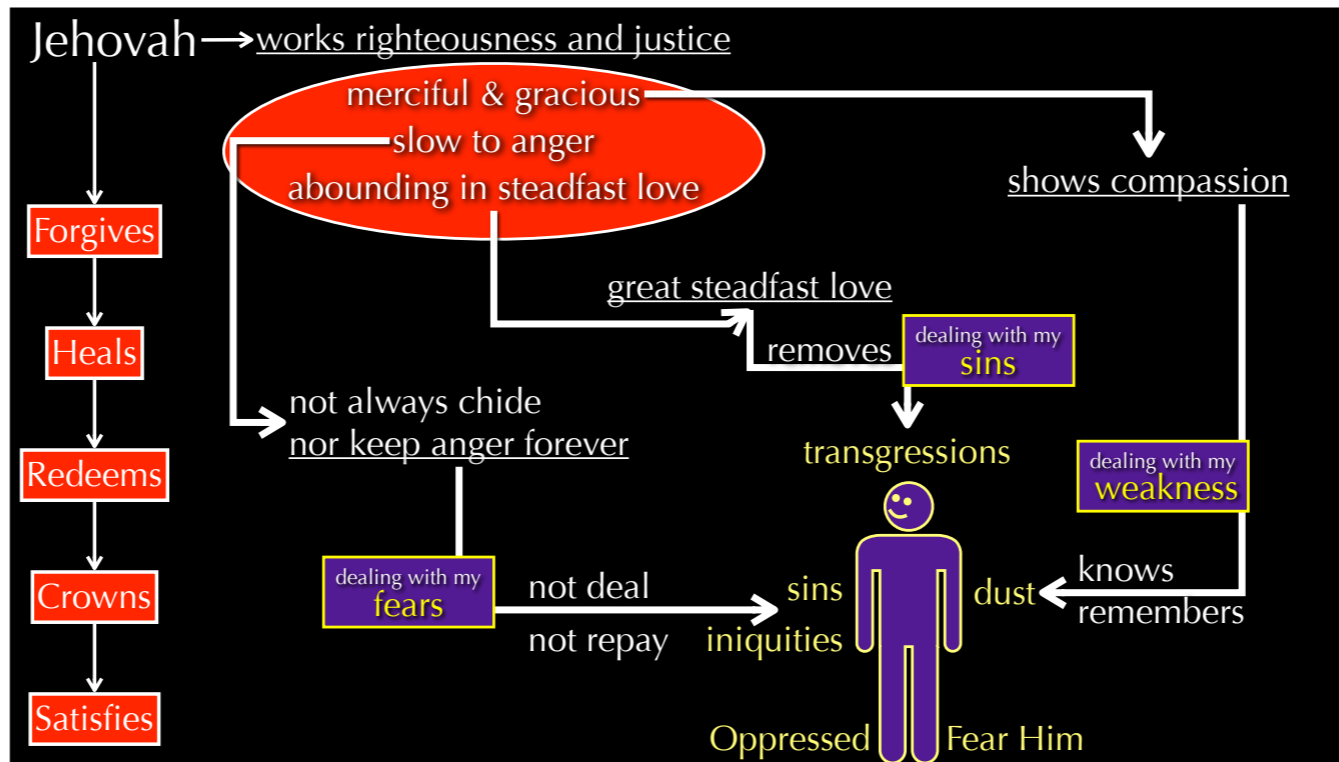
If he repents, forgive him



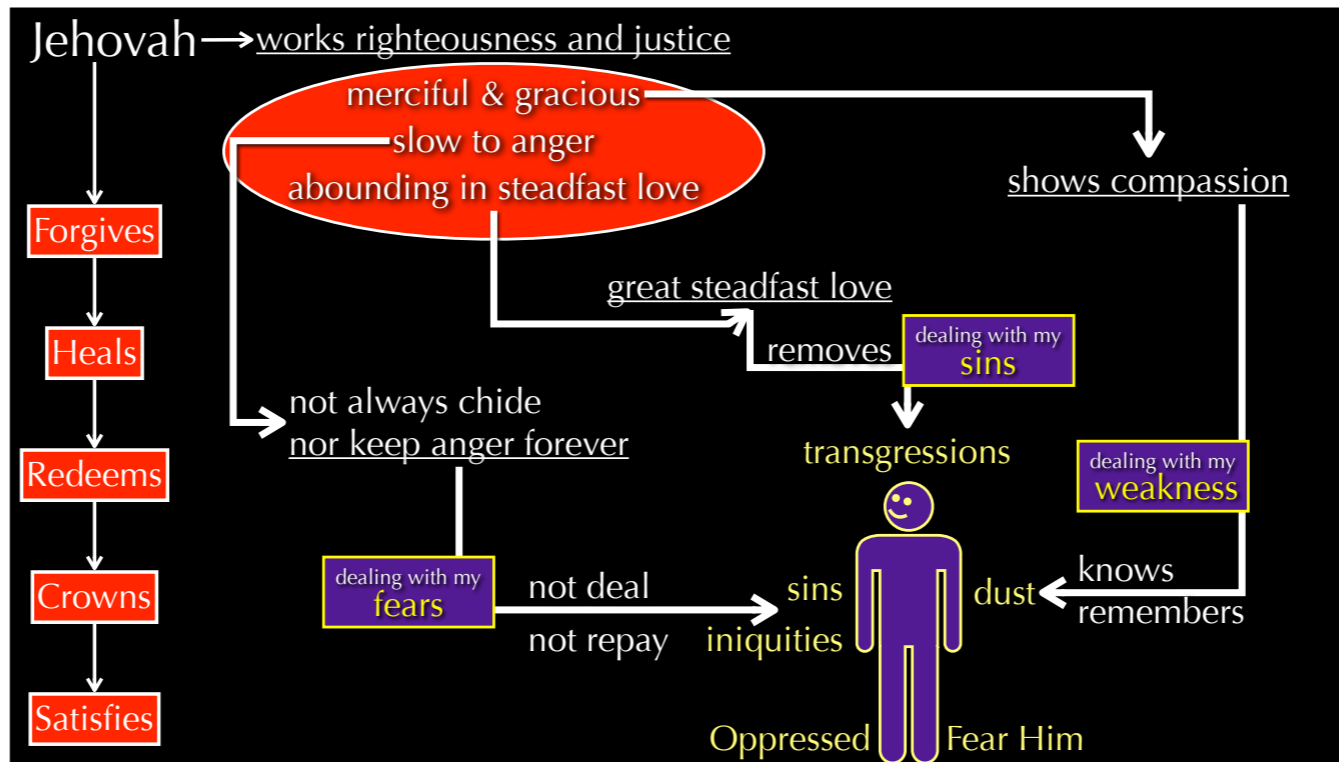
- So if we are not careful, we turn this passage into
 - “If he doesn’t repent, I don’t have to forgive him.”
 - But that’s not what Jesus said.



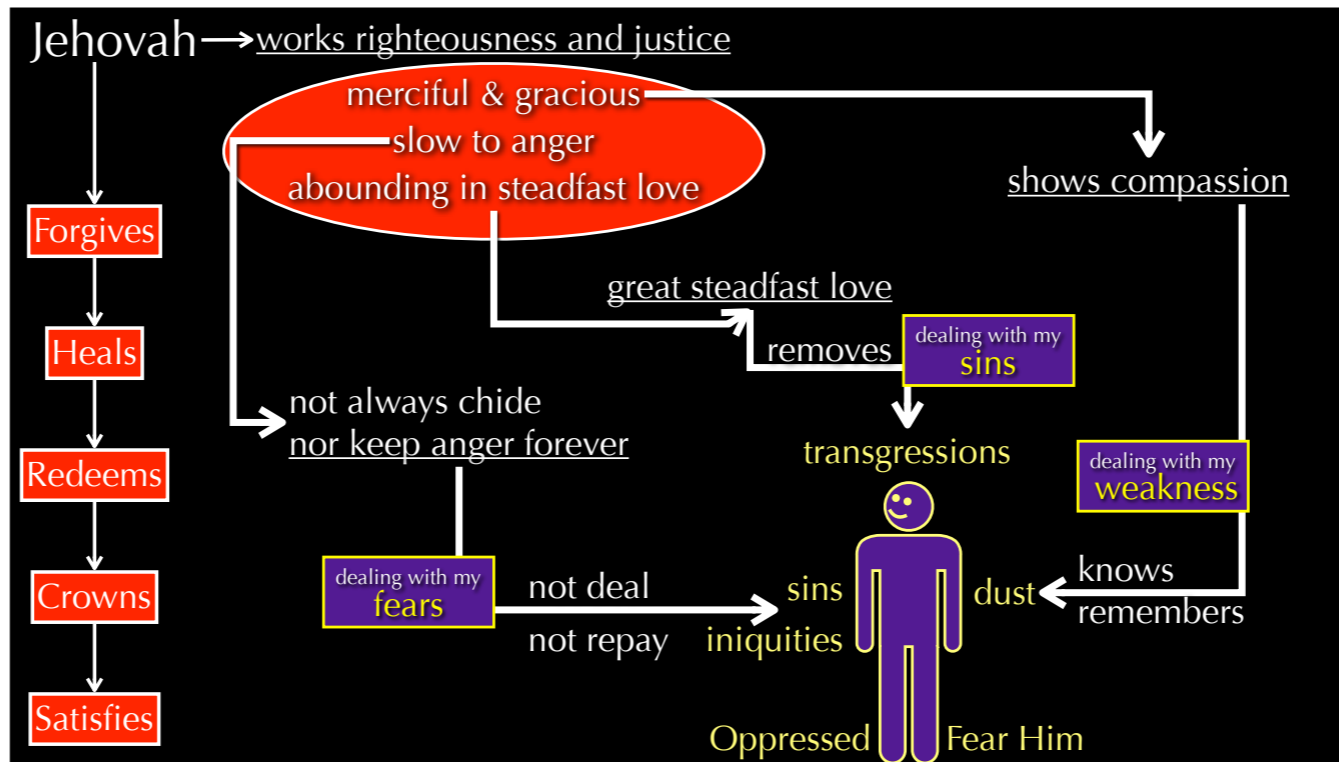
- How does God forgive me?
 - From studies in Psalm 103 we learned the He makes it easy for me to repent.



- Psalms 103:8 (ESV) 8 The LORD is **merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- Psalms 103:9-10 (ESV) 9 He will **not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.** 10 He **does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**



- Psalms 103:12-14 (ESV) 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.



- Do I make it easy for others to repent? Do they know I am longing to forgive?
 - Or do they dread facing the disappointment, the wrath, the condemnation



- Does God ever forgive without there first being repentance?
- The Paralytic:
 - Mark 2:4-5 (ESV) 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”



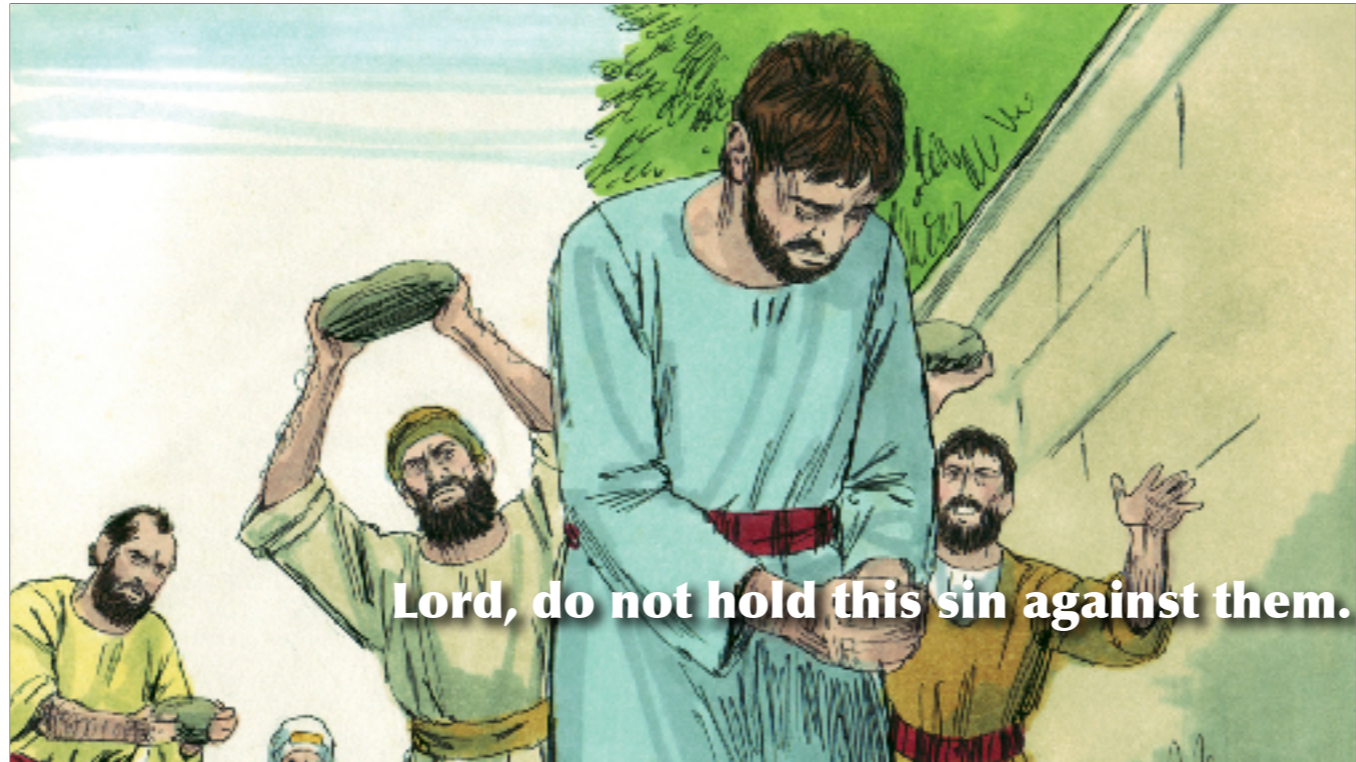
Luke 7:42 (ESV) 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Luke 7:47-48 (ESV) 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."



- From the Cross

- Luke 23:32-34 (ESV) 32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.



- Stephen
 - Acts 7:59-60 (ESV) 59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.



- We don't know if any of these repented. But God was clearly provided an atmosphere that would make it easy for them to seek forgiveness.



- So when God acted to forgive me
 - Why the list of requirements? Believe, repent
 - Mark 1:15 — and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”



- Mark 16:15-16 (ESV) 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- Maybe not REQUIREMENTS?



- This is God doing what is best for us:
 - forgiveness will be meaningless without belief (esp. trust) in Him.
 - forgiveness meaningless without changing from old ways.
 - baptism connects us to the blood of Jesus, died for us.
 - But these are the responses of a grateful heart to God's gracious salvation.



- Know it's not "earning" salvation
 - But it's also not just God has done this for me, so I must do this for Him.



- Not saying that the violator doesn't have responsibilities.
 - Rather, saying even when i am wronged:
 - I have responsibilities.
 - That go beyond forgiving



• Matthew 18:15-17

- 15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.



- 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- What do I do when the sinner will not repent?
- If someone is unwilling to repent...
 - would it be possible to forgive? heal? redeem? crown? satisfy

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- If I cannot forgive because they refuse to repent - what should I do?
 - Forbearance: act as if nothing is wrong... no.
 - Have you rebuked, gently, to help them?
 - Don't act as if nothing happened.
 - Jude 1:22-23 (ESV) 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- Romans 12:17-21 (ESV)
- 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- When is repentance necessary prior to forgiveness? When not?
 - Is this the wrong question?
 - following law/rules vs. heart ready to forgive
- Contrast Jehovah's readiness to forgive with Jonah's abiding anger?

What do I do when the sinner won't repent?



- **Am I ready to forgive when the sinner repents?**

**Repent and be baptized every one
of you in the name of Jesus Christ
for the forgiveness of your sins**

Acts 2:38

- Acts 2:38 — And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Repentance is necessary

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Can There Be Forgiveness Without Repentance?

Luke 17:3-4

Synopsis: When someone sins against me, but refuses to repent, should I forgive them. We'll consider how to deal with this problem that so many struggle with, and learn the importance of being prepared to forgive others so that repentance is easier for them.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”