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11-4-2021
TORMENT

The scriptures are full of examples of God's people dealing with offenses and becoming bitter. Many times, these people were mad at God. They cried out to Him and often heaven was silent. Perhaps you have been in such a place. Perhaps you have been wrongfully accused or spoken against with no cause. Perhaps you have been hurt by a loved one or a friend. Maybe you even got hurt in your church.

What do we do when these things happen? We can hold on to the hurts and they will eventually grow into a seed of unforgiveness and eventually cause us to be bitter. Peter and John had some real issues between them before Jesus died on the cross. Peter came to Jesus and asked him in Matthew 18:21, ***"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?"*** He expected Jesus to say that seven times was sufficient. Instead, Jesus said in vs. 22, ***"... I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven."*** That is 490 times, and most scholars say that is in a 24-hour period. That is over 20 times an hour!

What Jesus is literally saying is you have to walk constantly in forgiveness. Immediately after telling Peter this, he shares a parable about a man that owed a huge debt. His master was going to put him along with his family into prison until the debt was paid. The man begged his master not to do this, and that he would pay the debt somehow. The master had compassion on the man and forgave him the entire debt. (vs. 27.) This same man that was forgiven the huge debt meets a man immediately after this that owed him a very small debt but also couldn't pay it. Instead of forgiving him like his master had forgiven him his debt, he put the man in prison.

The master learns of this lack of compassion and brings the man back before him that had owed the huge debt. He was angry with him to the point of wrath (vs. 34) and delivered him to the tormentors until all that he had been forgiven would be paid off. Since there was no way to pay off the debt by being in prison he would be bound and tormented for eternity.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 35 that the Heavenly Father would do that to Peter and anyone else that did not forgive their brother of their trespasses (debts). Torment comes from unforgiveness my friends. In Mark 11:2 it talks about prayer. It says, ***"and when ye stand praying, forgive if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses (debts). But, if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses (debts)."***

God takes it seriously when we don't forgive. If you are tormented in your life, perhaps you should check your forgiveness level out. Torment comes from unforgiveness. Get rid of those offenses my friends and be set free from torment.