



I. REVIEW/INTRO

- A. The parable of the path
- Your direction—more than anything else—will determine your destination

Matthew 24:10-12 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

- Offense isn't an event, it's a path

Luke 17:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them. ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

- B. We need to grow our faith because this is a process
- We experience growth on three levels
 - Physical growth
 - Intellectual growth
 - Spiritual growth

- C. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
- Forgiveness is never an accident**

Forgiveness is: The intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense, and overcomes negative emotions such as resentment and vengeance.

- If I'm going to experience forgiveness in my life, it will be intentional.

Mark 11:25 (NLT) But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

II. THE DEBT DEBTOR RELATIONSHIP

- A. We are forgiven

Colossians 3:13 (TPT) Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them.

- Because many of us are "working" for God's forgiveness, we try to make others work for our forgiveness

- B. Paying a debt to society
- Our court system exists to avenge wronged or injured parties

"Bitterness is unfulfilled revenge. It is produced when revenge is not satisfied to the degree we desire." — Francis Frangipane

- C. The root of bitterness produces trouble



Hebrews 12:15 (NLT) Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

III. CAUGHT RED HANDED

A. Caught red handed

John 8:3 (NLT) As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

John 8:4-6 (NLT) ⁴“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” ⁶They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

John 8:7-11 (NLT) ⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. ⁹When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” ¹¹“No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

B. We love this story for the beauty of its redemptive qualities

- Jesus knew she was guilty, and still decided that forgiveness was necessary for her

C. The fight between “grace” and “go”

- **I don’t condemn you, go and sin no more. Are you going to go “back to” or “forward to”?**

D. Are you going to go “back to” or “forward to”?

- **Do I fully accept what Christ did for me?**
- **Can I extend that same grace to others?**