

**The Importance of Forgiveness**  
**Mark 11:25-33, Matthew 18:23-34**

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**I. Forgiveness affects prayer. Mark 11:25-26**

**Mark 11** is not teaching that our eternal destiny is contingent on forgiving others, but it teaches that our relationship and prayer life with God can be \_\_\_\_\_ if we refuse to forgive others.

- Keeping forgiveness from others will cause a person to miss the joy of grace, as they refuse to extend grace to others, because unforgiveness causes \_\_\_\_\_ and it will bind a person up.

We discover the worst \_\_\_\_\_ we can find ourselves in, is one of our own creation, by choosing not to forgive others.

**II. Jesus' authority questioned. Mark 11:27-28**

The day after Jesus cleansed the Temple, the King arrived at the Temple, His own \_\_\_\_\_ house once again. **1 Kings 9:3**

*"In the most authoritative place and before the most authoritative body in Israel, Jesus opens a window of understanding into His own \_\_\_\_\_."* (James Edward)

The day before this scene, Jesus knew what was \_\_\_\_\_ Him later in the same week, but He still went to Jerusalem and drove out the corrupt merchants from the Temple courts.

**III. Jesus answers with a question. Mark 11:29-30**

When Jesus spoke, He spoke with one having authority, unlike the religious leaders of His day. Jesus spoke with God's authority, because He is God in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- If what John the Baptist said before he was executed was true, then Jesus had all \_\_\_\_\_ over the Temple, the Word of God, and over their lives as well. **Luke 12:48**

**IV. Caught in a trap. Mark 11:31-33**

*"It was not a dodge, but a home thrust that cleared the air and defined their attitude both to John and Jesus. They rejected John as they now \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus."* (F.W. Robertson)

- If we want answers from Jesus, we have to accept the truth that has already been revealed to us; we do not get to manipulate God's Words to fit our \_\_\_\_\_. **John 17:17**

It is more difficult to face the truth and admit we are wrong, which forces us to conform to the truth; but clinging to the truth, is the \_\_\_\_\_ path to the abundant and eternal life with Christ.

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Read **Mark 11:25-26**. Was Jesus communicating that our salvation is in danger due to our lack of forgiveness? Discuss the importance of forgiveness as it affects our prayer life, our relationship with the Lord, and others. Discuss the physical consequences of unforgiveness.  
**Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Ephesians 4:32, Romans 12:18, Colossians 3:13, Luke 7:47, Hebrews 8:12**
2. Read **Mark 11:27-28**. Why was it so ironic for the religious leaders to question Jesus' authority?  
**1 Kings 9:3, Mark 11:18, Psalm 24:1, 1 Corinthians 10:26, Psalm 50:10**
3. Why did Jesus often answer questions with a question of His own?  
**Luke 8:10, Mark 4:11, Matthew 13:53, John 7:16-17**
4. Why is it so important to act upon the truth the Lord has already revealed to us? Does the Lord wait for us to respond to His commands, before revealing more to us?  
**Luke 12:48, John 17:17, Matthew 13:12, John 14:51-51**
5. Read **Matthew 18:23-34** and discuss the Practical Application portion of the sermon.  
**Ephesians 4:31-32**