**Man’s Greatest Need: Forgiveness**

We need several “necessities” to survive *physically-* food, air, water, shelter, etc. But to remain *spiritually* viable, our greatest requirement is **forgiveness.**

**I. Forgiveness Defined**

Matt.18:21-27; from v.27, *forgave* is translated from *apoluo-* to *set free;* to *let go; dismiss;* to *let go free; release.*

Spiritually, *forgiveness* is to *“remember their sins no more,”* Heb.8:12.

This is man’s greatest need, Psalm 103:3-4.

**II. Forgiveness Proclaimed**

Through John the Baptist, Luke 1:76-77; 3:3;

But was brought to all mankind by Jesus Christ, Matt.26:27-28; Eph.1:7.

**III. Forgiveness Administered**

Prior to His death, Jesus, as *God in the flesh, forgave* whomever He chose:

* Matt.9:1-8, Early in His ministry, He manifested this *power* on a *paralytic-* making the man’s *body* and *soul* whole again.
* Luke 7:36-50, He forgave sins regardless of their number.
* Luke 23:33-34, He forgave sins regardless of their severity.
* Luke 23:39-43, He forgave sins regardless of their longevity.

**IV. Forgiveness Required**

Matt.6:12,13-15, In order to *receive* forgiveness*,* we must *give* it:

* To those who *need* but perhaps do not *ask* for it, cp. Jas.5:13, like the *paralytic*, cp. Matt.9:6;
* To those who sin against us *many times,* Matt.18:21-22, like the woman of *many* sins;
* To those who sin against us *severely,* Matt.5:43-45 (see also Luke 15:11-24), like those who *crucified* Jesus;
* To those who wait a lifetime (it’s never too late to forgive) to ask for it, like the *thief on the cross.*

**V. Conclusions**

We all *need* the forgiveness Jesus offers, Col.2:13-14;

But we all also *need* to forgive others, Col.3:12-13.

Such forgiveness is available to those who will *repent* and be *baptized,* Acts 2:38; and to erring Christians who will *confess* and *pray,* 1John 1:9.

Indeed, *“How blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account,”* Rom.4:7-8!