

# APPLYING the Lesson of Passover in our lives

Luke 17:1-5 Seven times



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**SUMMARY:** *What would you say is a central lesson of the Passover that we are to APPLY in our lives? What made the disciples exclaim “Lord, increase our faith” when they heard what Yeshua/Jesus said? You may think you’re good at this lesson – but you may find out there’s still room for lots of growth after hearing what God says in His word.*

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***Another warm sabbath greeting to all of you my brothers and sisters around the world. This is Philip Shields, your brother and fellow servant of Yeshua, Jesus the Christ.***

***What would make you pray for more faith? After seeing what? After experiencing what?***

One time the Son of God said something so profound, so difficult, so impossible “to see” actually happening—that upon hearing Yeshua say it, the disciples blurted out, “Lord, increase our faith.” They didn’t say that after witnessing his powerful miracles of healing hundreds of people, or even resurrections from the dead, or calming a stormy lake, or walking on water - but when they heard these certain words. Turn please to Luke 17.

Do you have any idea what those words from our Yeshua were that caused them to almost panic? Let’s find out. It’s at the core of the meaning of Passover and if we’re learning *anything* about our Yeshua, His Majesty the literal Son of Almighty God in the Highest.

## **Luke 17:1-5**

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. 3 Take heed to yourselves. If your **brother** sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 ***And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him.***"

5 **And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."**

In the Passover season we learn about God’s forgiveness of all of us by letting the blood of the WORD who became flesh – who died for our sins. The Passover of Christ welds the need for God to have perfect justice and wrath against any and all sin – and His desire to

lovingly forgive those who have truly repented and believe on the saving work of the Son of God for them. These are people who want to walk as children of the Highest -- clean, holy new creations in the Messiah.

As His children, He expects us to become more and more like Him by His Holy Spirit – including being quicker to forgive. And forgive, and forgive. And then forgive again. Let's analyze what exactly Yeshua says here. You might consider yourself to be a very forgiving person, but I suspect you—and I – still fall *miles* short of *this* standard of forgiving we're supposed to have. You'll see what I mean.

**In verse 1-2** He teaches that we all offend sooner or later. James says, in James 3:1-2, that we all especially offend by our tongues. We say hurtful things – especially when we're angry or bitter, or very tired. We gossip with our tongues. I believe probably all or almost all of us are gossips to some degree. Then with our tongue we turn people's affections and love away from certain ones and destroy their reputation – and bring a lot of offense.

But we must be careful not to cause offense in the first place. Solomon tells us that *a brother offended is harder to win back than a strongly fortified city (Proverbs 18:19)*. Why? Because we *expect* offenses from the *world*, but not from a *brother or sister from our family or spiritual sister in the family of God!* Once we've offended someone, barriers (walls) are put up to keep us *out* of their lives, just like a castle wall does. And certainly if someone sins against us directly, most of us would end up being or feeling offended, if we're honest with ourselves. Then the walls go up. We don't want them in our lives. We don't share our lives with them. We don't share the gospel with them. We don't let any LIFE out of our lives but bottle it all up in our walled-in castle keeping everyone we don't like – OUT of our lives.

That's what happens when we're badly sinned against and offended. We want that person out of our lives, so our walls go up, the loving our brother with agape is hard to do - - and we stop growing. It's our way of not being hurt again. We block people out. And then we resent- hate – and strike back.

But Almighty God wants us to find ways to bring our brother into a *closer* relationship – not bar them from our lives with high emotional walls – even when we're hurting real badly from what they said or did to us.

So you're about to find out, in this season of Passover, how forgiving *you* really are – or aren't. And if we don't forgive others their trespasses, neither will Father forgive us ours, our Messiah taught (**Matthew 6:14-15**). Keep your finger in Luke 17 and look at Matthew 6 and then James 2.

**Matthew 6:14-15**

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
**15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**

**James 2:11**

**"For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. [In other words, won't forgive.] Mercy triumphs over judgment."**

**One more for good measure:**

**Mark 11:25-26**

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.**"

Whom have you offended? Who won't talk to you? And who is out there you could care less about? IF you can, as much as you can, try to restore that relationship if it's possible. Paul in **Romans 12:18** put the "if possible" caveat on there as some people are SO offended they won't respond, won't let you into their lives. Their high castle walls are up and now THEY are going to suffer too, because of their bitterness.

This is why God takes so seriously when we offend people—or if we stay offended ourselves. Bitterness and not forgiving -- hurts everyone. Hurts them, hurts us, hurts God, and hurts everybody. I've certainly offended and sinned against people and have begged for forgiveness many times.

So Passover season is all about us looking to the forgiving heart that God has *for US*, for *our* sins – but then God says we have to apply this lesson from Passover. God the Father may well something like this:

"Hey you all: *you* all need to be getting better at being like your heavenly father and forgive one another just like I've forgiven you. And I mean fast! Not years later. And I mean completely, and quickly. Leave them a blessing when you forgive while you're at it, by the way! Just like I did for Job when I forgave him and just like the way I did it at the end of Joel 2 as I called for repentance. That's the way I do it and I want to see you becoming more and more like Me" – God says.

***Back to Luke 17, now verse 3.***

**When a brother SINS against you**

**Verse 3** – "if a **BROTHER** sins against you..." Let's break this down. He's not just talking about just anybody in the world but a *brother*, *someone "in the church" or who has God's spirit*. Your brother, physically speaking, is someone in your family. So spiritually speaking, Yeshua is talking about a child of God who is your spiritual brother or sister! If a child of God – someone you would normally trust and love even more deeply than just everyone else – if that trusted and loved child of God, your brother, SINS against you – you are to forgive if he repents.

**The ones who hurt and offend us the most when they do wrong to us – are the people we love and trust the most:** our wife, our husband, our brother or sister, our pastor, our children. **When these people hurt us the hurt runs deep.** I've certainly caused my share of hurt. I've received my share of hurt from brothers – or as we say -- "brethren". These are going to actually be harder to forgive than an offense done by someone "in the world". Would you agree?

There are so many stories of brother against brother. The first murder in fact was a man (Cain) killing his own brother. We have the story of Amnon and Absalom. So many kings actually *killed* all their brothers to be sure they wouldn't try to take the kingship from them.

Notice it says this brother actually “SINS” against you. This isn't just that they've something we dislike. This is going beyond just a rude comment or oversight that makes us feel bad. Here we're talking about a brother *sinning* against you. Someone has committed adultery with your spouse. Or this brother has destroyed your life and reputation with awful gossip. Or someone has lied to you or against you – again wreaking havoc in your life. I want you to focus on the word “SINS” – this brother *sins* against you. We're talking the big stuff, the really bad stuff.

If this happens, we are *not to distance ourselves but seek him out if possible; talk to him or her, rebuke him, hoping he will change/repent and so we can forgive him.* The goal is always oneness and reconciliation. Ultimately it is God who forgives sin and its penalty of death – but we are also to forgive one another of the hurts others have inflicted on us. Of course we also hope that others will forgive US of the hurts we've inflicted on them as well. But the point is: GO to the person, TALK to the person, and then if he says he's sorry and repents – we must forgive.

If he doesn't repent – the examples we have in scripture from **Jesus** (Yeshua) himself was offering forgiveness even before the people repented. Remember on the cross? “Father forgive them...” – *even while* they taunted him, cursed him, insulted him, spit on him, jeered him and continued to sin against him. *They weren't repenting yet, were they?* But still, God the Son offered forgiveness.

Remember **Stephen**? AS the stones were landing on his body, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin” (**Acts 7: 60**). This was said just moments before he died with rocks crashing into his head. My point is: they were hardly repenting while Stephen offered forgiveness.

Some pastors insist that if someone ever repeats a particular sin, he hasn't repented yet. You're missing the point of Passover if you believe that. The point of Passover is that God keeps forgiving us of so many sins – sometimes in the same day or certainly in the week. We continue to

We have a ways to go yet, don't we?

Some sins are particularly painful. The pain caused by adultery by your husband or wife – especially if repeated – is so deep, so hurtful. But even here, we are to forgive. You are free to *divorce* if there's been sexual sin, but still – in the heart – you are to forgive. God himself finally divorced Israel – but not at the first spiritual adultery (the gold calf), nor the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> adultery (seeking other gods and goddesses). See **Matthew 19:8-9**. *And Almighty Yahweh is crystal clear about divorce when or if there is no justifiable reason.* Marriage is a lifelong *covenant* with God and your spouse and Yah is not at all pleased when we break that covenant or any covenant – unless we can prove infidelity or severe cases of dangerous abuse. If you've already divorced without good reason, repent – and move on. But speakers need to be speaking out more strongly about this.

God says very clearly in **Malachi 2:16** “**YHVH ELOHIM (LORD God) of Israel says that he HATES divorce.**” Read it on your own from **Malachi 2:12-16**. It was hard for women to initiate a divorce back then so the men are singled out. YHVH Elohim asks “you want to know why I'm not regarding your offerings and prayers anymore? It's because I've witnessed the treachery between you and the wife of your youth. Yet she is your companion

and your wife by covenant! I made you two as one so we could have some godly offspring. So know this: I *hate* your divorces!"

But now I see a lot of times it's the women of the church who are the energy behind so many divorces. Ladies: YHVH hates your divorces too! He wants us to stop being so offended, so unforgiving, so hateful – that except for serious immorality – that we feel justified in breaking the oath we made at our wedding. Let's say it for what it is. *It's a spirit of not forgiving that's behind so many of these divorces.* Justify it all you want; God says He HATES divorces. I'm NOT saying all divorce is wrong all the time. I'm not. There are cases where there has to be separation.

Pastors, it's time you start speaking up more about each spouse's God-commanded roles and speak out against the rampant divorce rate plaguing even the *ekklesia*, the people of God.

So my point is – when one we expect so much of – our spouse, our pastor, our family are the ones offending us – it's so much harder to forgive. And some have a hard time forgiving me. But if we see repentance and change happening, I hope we can all forgive one another. For if we don't forgive, and remember the LESSON of Passover, *we're* not going to be forgiven ourselves!

### **THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE COMMAND**

**Verse 4 – now the clincher.** Remember this is the Son of God speaking here.

**Luke 17: 4**

***"And if he sins against you SEVEN times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."***

**5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."**

Normally people feel that if someone keeps doing the same thing, keeps offending in some way, that that person simply has not repented. But Yeshua is teaching us that reading someone's heart is God's job, not ours.

Look at your own life. How many times have you had to repent of the same bad attitudes, doubts, worries, sinful thoughts, covetousness... just for starters? How about other sins that you committed more than once or two or three times? Does it really mean you never repented? If so, most people have not ever repented by that definition.

Sure, we don't keep pagan holidays anymore or eat unclean food or smoke anymore. Sure. But that's the easy stuff. Now it's about sins in *our head* – *the pride, the coveting, the lusting, the anxiety and worry, the things not so visible to others but are terrible sins nonetheless.* And we repent of those things over and over and over. You know we do! And God forgives us – over and over and over. Or am I the only one who has to repent more than once for the same things?

*It's hard to forgive someone who keeps doing the same thing over and over. And guess what folks? We put God through that exercise all the time! We sin against him day after day, and repent, and he forgives, then we sin again and repent again. And God forgives*

again. And sin hurts. Sin makes him sad, angry, disappointed – and more. But still, he sees you covered by the blood of the Lamb and He *passes over* you.

Can you imagine being sinned against seven times in one day by the same person? Read that again. The person who SINNED against you – and you forgive – sins against you a second time, then a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, then a 4<sup>th</sup> time ... and it's only 3 pm so far. Each time he says he has repented, and each time you forgive. But let's face it: it is getting a lot harder each time. We're questioning his repentance – but GOD is the one who sees the heart. He tells us "If he repents, you must forgive him."

Then he sins against you yet again, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the same day and it's only at 5:30 pm, this time really smearing your name, even going on email and Facebook with stories about you just DESTROYING your reputation. Facebook can be good, but it can also be gossip and meanness on steroids if used wrongfully.

Anyway, he repents and so you forgive. It's almost unbearable. Then at 8 pm – he sins painfully against you-- again!! And he comes back and says he knows he did wrong and repents. That's sin #6 against you and its only 8 pm. Then at 10 pm, he gets drunk and crashes into your car, injuring your wife in the passenger seat and demolishes your car. That's SIN #7. Later on, while visiting you and your wife in the hospital, he repents again.

Yeshua says, if he repents, even seven times in one day, we must forgive. I've heard this passage read in sermons but never elaborated on like this. And when we do, it seems impossible, doesn't it? And yet that is what Father goes through with us. We're constantly repenting (or should be) of new sins, new missing the marks, new shortcomings, new sins of omission and sins of commission, bad attitudes and worries and coveting ... and He forgives. Day after day.

Have you ever analyzed that statement about a brother, someone who should know better, sinning against you over and over – in one day, in the *same* day – but each time repents, and we are to say, "Like Christ forgave me, even when I kept repeating certain sins --even so I forgive you." And this is what we put God through too – and He forgives us.

**Colossians 3:12-15**

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.** 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

Right now some of you are thinking surely Christ didn't quite mean what I've presented here. Surely not, you think. But think again: how many times have you worried, and then repented for your lack of faith, only to start worrying again? How many times have you broken the sabbath, and repented, only to find yourself once more not quite ready for the day of God's rest – and having to repent all over again for the same sin? Let's be honest with each other. We all still sin and all too frequently at that – and we go and ask forgiveness. And we receive it.

Now then God says, "It's your turn. The way you have sinned against me, over and over and I have forgiven you over and over...now go do likewise. Show me you're my child. Act like me. I'm the one who forgives the penalty of sin, but I want you to forgive your BROTHER of the sins against you. Forgive the hurts. Reconcile with him. Accept him back into your life. Break down the high walls and share the gospel with him. Live the sermon you like to talk about. Be the life of Christ being lived all over again in you. Yes, even if your brother *sins* against you—yes, even if 7 times in *one day*, if he repents, you are to forgive him."

***No wonder the disciples said "Increase our faith".***

But instead of truly forgiving, we just attend somewhere else. Or we kick someone out and don't let them back in again, even long after the old sins have never been repeated and have been repented of. Brethren, that's all so wrong (see **2 Corinthians 2**).

### **The sins God says He hates most**

In one passage, Yehovah Elohim tells us what He hates the MOST. He lists six – and then gives a SEVENTH, the worst. Do you know what it is? It's not cold-blooded murder. Neither is it rape. Nor is it adultery. It's not homosexuality or even child molesting. It's not stealing, lying or breaking the sabbath or taking his name in vain. Those are all evil but they're not the worst. What else do YOU and society consider the worst of the worst sins? It's NOT any of those. It's not even terrorism. Something God says is even WORSE... well, let's read it... because sometimes you and I may have been doing this awful, awful sin. Do you know what it is?

#### **Proverbs 6:16-19**

**16 These six things YHVH hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:**

- 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil,
- 19 A false witness who speaks lies,

**And one who sows discord among brethren.**

How do we sow discord among brethren – and cause offense, and upset YHVH himself as the 7<sup>th</sup> of abominations? There are so many ways we know how to sow discord. And just remember: your Creator hates it.

- Spreading gossip, whether true or not. Gossip is not necessarily false information. Gossip is anything that hurts the reputation and standing of someone else. True or not.
- Whispering secrets
- Things said that discredit someone, or makes us not like them very much.

This could be gossip against your father-in-law or mother-in-law. Or against your own siblings. Or your own dad or daughter. Its one thing when sin is against us, but when a brother sins against your wife or children, it's that much harder to forgive.

Can you admit you've ever done this? It is so incredibly painful when done by you, or to you. Especially when someone has repented of the very thing you're spreading around like

industrial manure spreader to as far as you can take it. That is sowing discord among brethren and is a BIG reason so many don't even want anything to do with church anymore.

And when we post something to Facebook – in a second it's all over the world. It could be an intentional very uncomplimentary picture with little or no comment – but causes a lot of pain.

Doing this is not loving our brother or sister. In fact it shows disrespect and even hatred. And one who hates his brother has no life in him, abides in darkness and cannot say he loves GOD (please read **1 John 2:9-11; 1 John 3:14-15; 1 John 4:20**).

***And LET'S NOT FORGET THE LESSON OF FOOT WASHING!!*** At foot washing we are acknowledging that person has been washed by the Son of GOD himself – and we're confirming that we AGREE. We see that person as washed too. We now act and behave like we know that person is washed by God. If we think he's not washed, then that's between his Master and him. We are not his judge.

The great commandment Yeshua gave us all: “agape love each other just like I'VE loved you” – **John 13:33-35**– with forgiving agape love. Look how strongly Yeshua reconciled with Peter after Peter used profanity to swear he didn't know the man being brutally tried and beaten. We're told there was a private meeting between his Majesty, the risen Son of God – and Peter (1 Cor. 15:4-6). We don't know what was done or said, but all we DO know is that the next time Peter knew Yeshua was on the shore, he had to jump in and swim ahead of the boat to get to his Beloved Friend as fast as he could (**John 21:6-8**). There must have been a prior heart moving statement of forgiveness and reconciliation from our Example, our Lord and Savior, our King and Brother! That's how you and I are supposed to become.

Can you imagine forgiving Peter and reconciling if he had said all that about you in your hour of greatest need? But Yeshua did.

This is why I won't go to websites that seem to specialize in belittling men and leaders from other church groups. Or Facebook postings that ridicule our leaders. I've done it too –and repent of it. GOD put them there or allowed them to be there – partly as a test for US – to see if we will trust him and respect the leaders put over us.

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

In the end times, offenses from those we trust and love the most – our brothers and sisters in Christ – will actually cause some of us to betray them. Sure, if you've been hurt badly enough, our love “waxes cold” and can even turn to hate and betrayal.

The Son of God actually said these hurts, these offenses, these feelings of bitterness against our own brothers in the Lord will be so severe that we can actually find ourselves working to have our own brethren imprisoned and put to death! Hard to believe. Hard to imagine. But it's going to happen! This was part of what he said is coming in the end time. Obviously, this is NOT what Yeshua would want brothers doing to brothers.

**Matthew 24:10**

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”

**Mark 13:12**

“Now **brother will betray brother to death**, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.”

This is coming. Some of us will even be put to death because of an offended brother who betrays us.

**So what's the antidote?**

We must be actively asking our Father to pour out more of his agape love into our hearts and to teach us to be like him: quickly forgiving our brother, yes even if one of God's children (a brother) sins against us and repents *seven* times in *one* day. In one day!! Are we getting this?

Have you forgiven all? Have you tried to be reconciled with all? Who do you dislike the most? We gotta get over that. A test: if you think you're over it, and have forgiven, what if God put your mansion in the heavenly Jerusalem, right next to that person's home? For eternity? Makes you think, doesn't it?

Cutting down fellow believers has to stop. Cutting down our national leaders – has to stop. Cutting down anyone with a beating heart, has to stop. Listening to gossip and divisiveness – has to stop. Or else you're part of the problem. We're either gathering people together, or we're scattering, Jesus said.

Even seven sins against you by the same person in one day. Forgive if he repents. Wow.

So this is what caused the disciples to exclaim, “Increase our faith!” We're not there yet, *are* we? I know I have a ways to go. But this kind of forgiving will keep on forgiving. I want to say again: the focus is on forgiving our brothers. An offended brother is harder to win back than a walled city. Sins done against us by a brother – now that hurts. We don't expect that from a brother.

Now let's kick it up a couple notches. Are you ready?

Peter wanted to be sure he had gotten it right. Seven times. But not eight times, right? But Yeshua in another place expanded even on that. Yeshua added: “Don't just limit your forgiving to seven times, but 70 x 7 times; in other words, *ad infinitum*.”

**Matthew 18:21-22**

“Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall **my brother** sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

**22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.”**

Then Jesus launches into the parable of the servant who wouldn't forgive a small debt. Oh well, let's read it. But remember this story is about YOU and me. We do the things the servant did to the other servant.

**Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 **Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.**

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 **"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."**

The One we sinned against over and over – was beaten and crucified for me. If we're like Christ, WE will in fact have the attitude of even being willing to die FOR the ones we formerly despised. And let's reach out to brethren who attend elsewhere. Let's be ONE.

**1 John 3:14-19**

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren [i.e., our brothers]. *He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. *And we also ought to lay down OUR lives for the brethren [contrast to Mark 13:10 and those who will betray and have own brothers put to death!].* 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Think about it: Yeshua – God in the flesh - *died* for those spitting on him, insulting him and crucifying him. He died for Caiaphas and Herod and Pilate. He died for his brothers and sisters. He died for you and for me – even while we were enemies. He died for the ungodly. While they were ungodly. Before they repented.

So as we remember the Passover and its meaning, remember: you and I have been forgiven a LOT. God continues to practice what he demands of us: forgiving us of a lot of sin, sometimes several times a day. In the same way, we must grow in this as well.

Yeshua spoke his mind, even to the Pharisees, but He also forgave them. He also died for them. He didn't let them offend him to the point of not caring for them. We have our work cut out, don't we? Be sure you are seeking to reconcile and be at peace with as many people as possible, as far as it's possible to do so. Whom do you still resent? Who still evokes a feeling of deep hurt inside you when you think of him or her? Do something about it.

Wherever you read the word "love" in the passage below, put in your name. Are we growing in this love that allows us to forgive people? (Try it first with your name. I only go a little ways with my name before I "Strike out" – and need Yeshua's life to live in me – and in you)

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

*“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Thank you, Beloved Master, for showing us the way. Come live in us, Savior. Give us the faith and ability to love and forgive especially our brothers, sisters and really all people when they sin against us – just like you have done, and continue to do, for each of us. Thank you, our dear Lord.