Come Follow Me Podcast
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Transcript provided by Otter.ai

The leading verse in Section 82 is a reoccurring principle in the Savior's teaching, and one that is difficult for many of us to grasp. It says, Verily, verily. I say unto you My servants, that Inasmuch as ye have forgiven one another your trespasses, even so I the Lord will forgive you. This verse teaches us two things, first, that God wants to forgive us, and number two, that he asks us to forgive one another. In October 2018 general conference, President Holland began his talk with this story. Grant Morel Bowen was a hard working, devoted husband and father who, like many who made their living on the land, had an economic downturn when the local potato crop was poor, he and his wife, Norma, took other employment, eventually moving to another city and started their climb back to economic stability. However, in a terribly unfortunate incident, brother Bowen was deeply hurt when in a temple recommend interview, the bishop was a little skeptical regarding morels declaration that he was a full tithe pair. I don't know which of these two men had the more accurate facts that day, but I do know that sister Bowen walked out of that interview with her temple recommend renewed, while brother Bowen walked out with an anger that would take him away from the Church for 15 years, regardless of who was right about the tithing, evidently, both Morel and the bishop forgot the Savior's injunction to Agree with thine adversary quickly, and Paul's counsel to let not the sun go down upon your wrath. The fact is, they didn't agree, and the sun did go down on brother Bowen's wrath for days, then for weeks,
then for years,
proving the point made by one of the wisest of ancient Romans who said, anger, if not restrained, is frequently more destructive than the injuries that provoked it, but the miracle of reconciliation is always available to us. And out of love for his family and church he knew to be true, Morel Bowen came back into full Church activity. Let me tell you briefly how it happened. Brother Bowen's son, Brad is a good friend of ours and a devoted area 70 serving in southern Idaho. Brad was 11 years old of the time of this incident, and for 15 years he watched his father's religious devotion decline a witness to the terrible harvest being reaped where anger and misunderstandings had been sowed. Something needed to be done. So as Thanksgiving holiday approached in 1977 Brad, a 26 year old student at Brigham, young university his wife Valerie, and new baby son, Mick, loaded into their student version of an automobile. And bad weather notwithstanding, drove to Billings Montana. Not even a crash into a snow bank near West Yellowstone could keep this threesome from making their ministering contact with brother, Bowen, Sr, Upon arrival, Brad and his sister Pam asked for a private moment with their father. You've been a wonderful dad. Brad began with some emotion, and we have always known how much you loved us, but something's wrong, and it has been for a very long time because you were hurt once. Our whole family has been hurting for years.
We're broken,

and you're the only one who can
fix us. Please, please, after all this time, can you find it in your heart to lay aside that unfortunate incident with that bishop and again lead this family in the Gospel as you once did.
There was dead silence.
Then brother Bowen looked up at these two his children, bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, and said very quietly, yes,
yes, I will
thrilled but stunned by the unexpected answer. Brad Bowen and his family watched their husband and father go to his current bishop in a. Spirit of reconciliation to set things right in his life. In a perfect response to this courageous but totally unexpected visit, the bishop who had extended repeated invitations to brother Bowen to come back, threw his arms around Morel and just held him,
held him in a long, long, long embrace in a matter of only a few weeks. It doesn't take long. Brother, Bowen was fully engaged in the Church activity and had made himself worthy to return to the temple. Soon enough, he accepted a call to preside over a struggling little branch of 25 and grew it into a thriving congregation of well over 100 all of this took place nearly half a century ago, but the consequences of a son and a daughter's ministering plea to their father and that father's willingness to forgive and move forward in spite of the imperfections of others, has brought blessings that are still coming and will come forever to the Bowen family
that is such a powerful story.
So why is it so hard?
Hate,
anger, resentment, they can destroy everything they touch. I'm sure most of us have felt the healing peace that comes from being forgiven after we have accidentally hurt or offended someone. So why wouldn't we offer that peace freely to others
that have offended us.
One thing to consider, if, right now, you were to come face to face with Jesus, Christ, our Lord and our Savior, what do you think the first words he would most likely say to you, if you studied the lives of those that this actually happened to there's a theme. He'd probably say,
son or daughter,
thy sins are forgiven thee.
And you might ask, Well, why? Why would he say that? Why did he lead with that in April 2013 General Conference, Craig CARDONE gave a talk, and he shared his version of a scene from the Savior's life, explaining this situation, he said, during the time of the Savior's mortal ministry, many followed after him, including scribes and Pharisees out of every town of Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem, a bedridden, paralyzed man desiring to be healed was brought to a large gathering, but unable to get close to the Savior. His friends took him to the roof of the house where the Savior was, and lowered him down, seeing this demonstration of faith with a great purpose not yet known to his listeners, the Savior declared, man, thy sins are forgiven thee. This must have surprised the man, although the Scriptures say nothing of his reaction, he may have wondered if the Savior really understood why he had come. The Savior knew that many people followed him because of his mighty miracles. Already he had turned water to wine, cast out unclean spirits and healed a noble man's son, a leper Peter's mother in law and many others. But with this paralyzed man, the Lord chose to give evidence to both disciple and

detractor of his unique role as the savior of the world, hearing the Savior's words, the scribes and Pharisees had begun to reason among themselves, ignorantly, speaking of blasphemy, while concluding that only God can forgive sin, perceiving their thoughts, the Savior addressed them by saying, why reason ye in your hearts whether it's easier to say, Thy sins are forgiven thee or say, arise up and walk, not waiting for their response. The Savior continued, but that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins.
He then turned to the paralyzed man,
I say unto thee, arise and take up thy couch and go into thy house.
And he did,
by this miraculous physical healing, the Savior confirmed to all of us of his infinitely more powerful spiritual truth, the
Son of Man, can forgive sins,
while this truth is readily accepted by all believers,
not so easily acknowledged is the essential companion. Truth, the Savior forgives sin upon Earth, and not just at the final judgment. He does not excuse us in our sins. He does not condone our return to past sins,
but when we repent and obey His gospel,
he forgives us, and that is a powerful truth. Recently, I dug out of storage my old mission journals and started reading them. There was a memory I had forgotten until I re read about it in my journal. I'd like to share a portion with you, if I could, when I first entered the MTC as a young missionary, I was assigned to a three way companionship, two wonderful elders served as my companions for at least a couple of weeks, until a new missionary was brought into our district. He was a little older. Came in at age 23 after a few weeks in this extremely high, spiritually saturated environment, my companion began to struggle. He was angry. He was frustrated. He wasn't progressing or learning anything. He told me one day that he needed to talk to the branch president, so I went with him as he went down to have a meeting with him. He was in there for a little while, and never really told me what it was about, but I knew something was bugging him, something was weighing heavy on his mind. A couple days went by and he still seemed to struggle, still seemed a little off, till we were sitting in class one afternoon and over the intercom his name was called to come down to the main office with his head hung low and at a very slow pace, I walked with Him, praying with every step we took. He was asked to meet with the district president, and I sat outside that door for three hours with my head in my hands, praying, pleading, asking heavenly father that he would intervene, that something would happen to help this missionary who tried so hard to be here three hours he was in that room when he came out, he told me that they had to call his stake president,
and they also had to call a General Authority.
After a very long debate, it was decided that my companion would be able to stay on his mission. We were so happy, me and him held hands and jumped up and down like giddy little school girls. He was a totally different person. His eyes were light again, his smile was broad, his walk was proud.
That load was lifted.
This desperate elder that had no motivation only days prior was literally running from class to class, smiling, laughing and feeling the spirit again, this principle of forgiveness is easier than we think. Jesus says he wants one thing from us, only one thing, and that's our hearts. We will

all make mistakes. This truth is certain, no matter how perfect you are, mistakes will be made. Accidents will happen. We will slip and fall,
but the Savior is always there.
He's always anxious
to pick us up again
and to say to us quickly,
thy sins are forgiven. Thee. He offers that mercy because he has already paid the price for those sins. He simply asks for us to recognize and appreciate his great sacrifice.
I testify with every fiber of my being
that the Lord is anxiously waiting to offer you His love, His joy, his peace and freedom that comes from His amazing grace.
I pray that we can seek after that gift
for ourselves
and for those that we love
and for anyone that we come in contact with, I pray that we may offer that same forgiveness, that same understanding,
the same mercy and. That Jesus offers us freely
to everyone around us, a stranger or not.
Jesus was the perfect example. And if he can forgive us so freely,
we ought to forgive one another
as quickly as he did. I For therein lies true peace
and true joy.
I testify in the name of Jesus, Christ. Amen You.