# /WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES Good Morning! Let's Make a Mental Shift \

Good morning! Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 says...

## /2CO 5:17

Therefore if (1) anyone is in (union with) Christ (and all believers are), he is a new creature (spiritual species); the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.\

We come to bible study because as believers in Christ, we have laid aside the Old Self Life, a lifestyle of slavery to self and sin. The New Self Life of devotion to Christ means a new set of attitudes and a new set of actions. The new attitude is learned through study of the Word of God.

#### <WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

We come to bible study for the refreshment of RENEWING, to allow God the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truths of the Word of God, so we can know all the details of the Predetermined Plan of God the Father...so we can know the voluntary compassion and sacrifice of God the Son...and so we can know the amazing resurrection life of the uniquely born One, the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

#### ROM 12:2

...(keep on) be(ing) transformed by (God in) the RENEWING of your mind...

During bible study you also let God the Holy Spirit prepare you to "in humility receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

#### /MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

How Great You Are

As God prepares your soul and your thoughts for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is...HOW GREAT YOU ARE.

#### **/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

As we reflect on our failure to forget the hurts others inflict on us....as we reflect on our failure to remember the hurts we inflict on others, give us a true idea of what forgiveness is from Your perspective.

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

## **/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, given to me by God for your benefit, so I assist you in the development of a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## /A DEEP INTIMATE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

An individual involvement with God...intended just for you...planned by God in eternity past...a relationship containing the elements of dependence, independence...you have free will...and interdependence...a relationship extending far beneath the surface of things...a close, warm, intricate and familiar association suggesting privacy and connection with the divine.\

## /TODAY'S STUDY

**Unconditional Love and Forgiveness Does Not Forget\** 

We continue our study of the CREATOR.

## <CREATOR VS. CREATURE CONFLICT 21 C's SLIDE>

Who is the CREATOR? Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 1 says...

#### /GEN 1:1

In the beginning (not a beginning, THE) God (Jehovah Elohim...the Lord Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate state as God the Son) created the heavens and the earth.\

Our CREATOR, our Messiah, is described in Isaiah, Chapter 42, Verses 1 to 9...

#### /ISA 42:1

"Behold, My Servant, whom I (God the Father) uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My (Holy) Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations."

#### /ISA 42:2

"He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street."

#### /ISA 42:3

"A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice."

The Lord Jesus Christ is faithful to His Creatures.

#### /ISA 42:4

"He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

#### /ISA 42:5

Thus says God the Lord (Jesus Christ), Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it...\

## /ISA 42:6

"I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the

people, As a light to the nations..."\

#### /ISA 42:7

"To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison."

#### /ISA 42:8

"I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images."

#### /ISA 42:9

"Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

Tick Tock...what time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK?

#### <CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial>

It's First Corinthians Thirteen O'clock on the Creator Clock! First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

#### /1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.\

We are studying God's unconditional love. Here's a quote from a believer in Christ about unconditional love...

## **/QUOTE FROM A BELIEVER IN CHRIST ABOUT LOVE**

"Unconditional love? I know how to receive it...but I sure don't know how to give it!"\

The study of unconditional love is really the study of relationships. Do you love those who appear to be unlovable? Do you love the despicable? Do you love those who hurt you and who use you? The Creator and His Creatures are in a relationship, and the foundation of that relationship is the blessing from God of unconditional love. Another blessing from God is forgiveness. Do you forgive those who wrong you? Here's a quote from a believer in Christ about forgiveness...

## OUOTE FROM A BELIEVER IN CHRIST ABOUT FORGIVENESS

"A friend of mine wronged me at a time of my deepest need...he was not there for me when I needed him most...I didn't think I would ever be able to forgive him...after a period of time I found it in myself to forgive him...and I guarantee even though I found it in myself to forgive, I did not produce the forgiveness."\

What a great assessment. Unconditional love and forgiveness do not come from us...they come from within us if we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, courtesy of the indwelling Trinity.

You have probably heard it said that to forgive means...

#### /FORGIVE

To totally forget or blot out an offense as if the offense had never happened.\

There was a time when I subscribed to that definition as a viable notion. The more I have thought about this definition of forgiveness over the years, the more I think it is absolutely is impossible, implausible, and impractical to expect a human being to do that. God doesn't forget...He knows all the knowable...He is omniscient. How can One who is all-knowing forget? Our God does not forget...He loves...and He forgives...He chooses not to remember...He doesn't hold what He remembers against us and He will never bring up our sins again. But He does not forget...He has the scars to prove it. Turn in your bibles to John, Chapter 20, Verse 24...

#### /JOH 20:24

But Thomas, one of the twelve (apostles), called Didymus, was not with them (the other apostles) when Jesus came.\

#### /JOH 20:25

So the other disciples were saying to him (Thomas), "We have seen the Lord!" But he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

## /JOH 20:26

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said,

"Peace be with you."

#### /JOH 20:27

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

#### /JOH 20:28

Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"//Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."\

Unconditional love and forgiveness are foundational in relationships. Yet we are in a constant quandary about how to live in each one, especially in circumstances where others have hurt us. We secretly wonder, "Unconditional love? Forgiveness? What does God want from me?"

God wants you to turn the other cheek...

#### /MAT 5:38

"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH."

#### /MAT 5:39

"But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."

#### /MAT 5:40

"If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also."

#### /MAT 5:41

"Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two."\

#### /MAT 5:42

"Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you."

For many of us, such requests from God begin to turn our stomachs. How can we do this? When should we do this? What if we don't want to?

Take a five-minute break.

#### /BREAK

Indescribable When I Think About Home\

Welcome back!

What does God wants from you in the matter of unconditional love and forgiveness? God wants you to love your enemies...look at Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 43...

#### /MAT 5:43

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy."\

#### /MAT 5:44

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

#### /MAT 5:45

"...so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

#### /MAT 5:46

"For if (1) you love those who love you (and you do), what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

#### /MAT 5:47

"If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?"

## /MAT 5:48

"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."\

For many of us, such a request from God puts us in a quandary. How can we do this? When should we do this? What if we don't want to?

What does God wants from you in the matter of unconditional love and forgiveness? True love is not possible without forgiveness...God wants you to forgive and forget...or does He? Look at Matthew, Chapter 18, Verse 21...you'll remember this...

#### /MAT 18:21

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

#### /MAT 18:22

Jesus said to him (Peter), "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

#### /MAT 18:23

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves."

#### /MAT 18:24

"When he had begun to settle them (the accounts), one (a slave) who owed him (the king) ten thousand talents was brought to him."

#### <ROMAN CURRENCY CHART>

Ten thousand talents was a sum of money that could not be paid back in several lifetimes...it is over sixty million dollars.

#### /MAT 18:25

"But since he (the slave) did not have the means to repay, his lord (the king) commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made (so as much money as possible could be recovered)."

#### /MAT 18:26

"So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him (the king), saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'"

#### /MAT 18:27

"And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt."

#### /MAT 18:28

"But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'"

## <ROMAN CURRENCY CHART>

The slave's debt of ten thousand talents was forgiven. But the slave would not forgive a debt of 100 Denarii that was owed to him.

#### /MAT 18:29

"So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'"

#### /MAT 18:30

"But he was unwilling (to forgive) and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed."

#### /MAT 18:31

"So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened."

## /MAT 18:32

"Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.'"

#### /MAT 18:33

"'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'"

God expects us to forgive the same way He forgives.

#### /MAT 18:34

"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him."

#### /MAT 18:35

"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

But wait a minute...the king didn't forget...so what does God want from you in the matter of unconditional love and forgiveness? God wants you to be real. Forgiveness poses struggles for us...

How can I love my spouse who is always resisting my efforts at unity? How can I forgive a child I've sacrificed everything for who won't talk to me? How can I empty myself and my wallet to a friend only to have her not pay me back, and not speak to me anymore when I didn't do anything to her (that I know of) but love her unconditionally and defend her in her time of need? How do I tell a woman who has been crushed by a betrayal in a marriage relationship that her refusal to let go of the bitterness makes it impossible for her to see all the love and the blessings that God has surrounded her with? If I suggest that she forgive, can she forget? I doubt it. Conversely, if she doesn't forgive, what chance does she have to ever love again? Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verse 15 says...

#### HEB 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled...

Alexander Pope suggests...

/"To err is human...to forgive divine..." Alexander Pope\

But do platitudes and sayings really help when we have been wronged? Do God's requests really make the path of Christianity clear when we have been hurt? Turn the other cheek...love your enemies...forgive...we just don't seem to have this forgiveness in us. What is forgiveness in the context of the relationships that hurt us most? The misuse, misunderstanding, and misapplication of scripture leaves us wrecked in our souls...has us using the bible against ourselves...puts us in a position to feel hopeless and helpless because we cannot measure up to the standards God has set for us.

God has answers...and He will share them with us as we continue our study.

#### /CLOSING SONG

He Remembers to Forget\

#### **CLOSING VERSES**

#### /PRO 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.\

#### **/DEU 31:8**

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed\

#### /ISA 30:18

Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.\

#### /CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

THANKS
INTERCESSION
PETITION

And we pray that you continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of your person, your thinking, your work, your reputation and your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

/Thanks for coming! Thanks for watching! Thanks for listening!

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