

ONE OF GOD'S GREAT WORDS
Matt. 26:26-29

Intro: One of the problems that Bible translators have had in giving the Word of God to people in their own languages is that for many Bible words the people may have no equivalent in their own language. And so words have to be coined because the Bible, to a great extent, has a language all its own.

For the person who has studied the NT Greek the picture is the same. Again and again in the lexicons we come to the expression that this must have been coined by the writer since this word is used only in the NT, and perhaps just by that person.

Again we realize that God has a language and words which only He uses.

This does not apply to all of God's great words, but it does to many of them. What are the words we are talking about? The following give us some samples:

- 1) Salvation.
- 2) Grace.
- 3) Mercy.
- 4) Love.
- 5) Reconciliation.
- 6) Propitiation.
- 7) Redemption.
- 8) Justification.
- 9) Sanctification.
- 10) Glorification.

And there are many others.

The one I want us to think about tonight is forgiveness.

We all have some idea of the meaning of this word because we have had to exercise it ourselves toward others, and they have had at times to forgive us. But we do not see the real meaning of this as it relates to God until we see it in the Scriptures.

(Read the text: Matt. 26:26-29.)

It certainly is vital in the observance of the Lord's Supper that we understand what this great word means. Let me point out from several Scriptures some of the things involved in God's forgiveness of us.

I. THE OBJECT OF FORGIVENESS: OUR SINS (Matt. 26:28).

II. THE PRICE OF FORGIVENESS: THE BLOOD. Cf. Heb. 9:22,

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission."

III. THE BASIS OF FORGIVENESS (Acts 13:38, 39).

Paul is speaking in Antioch and says,

"Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

See also 1 John 2:12,

"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."

And so it is always and only through Christ.

But it is necessary to note another thing in this connection. See Eph. 1:7b,

" . . . the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

IV. THE MEANING OF FORGIVENESS.

A. A release effected (Eph. 1:7):

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace."

The word means that something has been let go, a charge has been dropped.

And note: It is not future, but present.

B. A record erased (Heb. 10:17).

"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

We remember them, but He forgets.

C. A relief experienced (Rom. 4:7, 8; quoted from Psa. 32:1, 2).

"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

D. A rest entered (Heb. 10:18).

"Now where remission (or, forgiveness) of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

Concl: These are some of the aspects of truth concerning just one of God's great words which should be in our minds as we come to the Lord's Table tonight. We can never exhaust or fully understand what it means to be forgiven, but we can thank God that it is so and rejoice in what we do know about it.