

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 11

2024

## Just Let It Go

A man who observed an old farmer plowing a field with his mule once said, “I don’t want to tell you how to run your business, but did you know that you could save yourself a whole lot of work by saying ‘gee’ and ‘haw’ to that mule, instead of just pulling on the reins?” The old farmer stopped, pulled out a handkerchief from his pocket, mopped his brow, and said “I reckon you’re right, but this critter kicked me five years ago and I ain’t spoke to him since.”

Now, this little story may bring a smile to your face, but the fact of the matter is, it illustrates very well the price that many pay when they carry a grudge, and fail to let it go. You see, when defined, a grudge is: “a persistent feeling of resentment or ill will toward another.” Sadly, there are some Christians today who are carrying around grudges each and every day without realizing the price that they are paying for doing so.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, we all need to beware of the ill effects of carrying around a grudge, and we need to strive to be a people who avoid bearing grudges toward one another by learning to simply just let it go. For, the children of Israel were instructed to avoid bearing grudges when they were told, “*You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself...*” (Leviticus 19:18). Now, I encourage us all to take heed to those

words of the LORD that was spoken to the children of Israel, and I likewise encourage us all to make proper application of the need to not carry a grudge against one another, but to simply just let it go.

Knowing that, let’s be a people who love one another (Matthew 22:39; John 13:34-35; Romans 13:10). Let’s not be angry toward one another, and if there is a problem, let’s make an honest effort to make it right (Matthew 5:22-24). Let’s have the courage to go to another who has offended us, in an effort to resolve that issue (Matthew 18:15), for often times, many ill feelings are formed due to a simple misunderstanding or by false preconceived thoughts, and often these problems can be resolved by simply talking it out.

Likewise, let’s remember, if a brother sins against us, and he repents, we are not to feel ill toward him, but rather we are to forgive him (Luke 17:3-4). Therefore, may we never forget the need to forgive. For, as Jesus teaches, our forgiveness from our Father in heaven hinges on our forgiveness of others (Matthew 6:14-15). So, do not carry around a grudge, but rather be one who makes every effort to put behind you any feelings of bitter resentment or ill will that you may have for another, always remembering these words of the Hebrews writer, “*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled*” (Hebrews 12:14-15).

Once more, my beloved brethren, do not be one who hold’s bitter feelings or a grudge against one another, but simply, just let it go, and be reconciled to your brother (Ref. Matthew 5:21-24), knowing that it is the will of the LORD our GOD for His people not to bear any grudge against one another. Therefore, JUST LET IT GO!

✍️ Brad Phillips

# FORGIVE AND FORGET

An old Negro slave had defied his master's order not to read the Bible and was being flogged for it. As the whip cut into his flesh his owner taunted him with: "What can your Bible do for you now, boy?" "It can teach me to forgive master," he replied.

It is sometimes more difficult to forget than to remember. But we must learn to forget. "We do not mean literally to forget, but to cease to nurse a grudge, to put the thing behind us, never to be brought up again, no matter what happens in the future.

We need to forget our past failures. Don't cry over spilt milk; get up and milk the cow again. When you have tried something and failed, learn a lesson from your failure and then forget it.

Some people can never get over a slight by someone, or a wrong done them. The penitentiary is full of people who could not forget a real or imagined wrong, either by an individual or society as a whole. A man told me that one of the reasons he had never become a Christian was that he could not forgive a wrong done him. One of the first recorded statements of the Lord was: "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:15) We had better remember that no unforgiving person can have fellowship with a forgiving God.

When Abraham Lincoln was President, he was bitterly criticized by Edward McMasters Stanton. He called Lincoln a "low cunning clown," the "original gorilla." Stanton was a Democrat, but after the attack on Ft. Sumter, Lincoln appointed him Secretary of War, because Stanton was a loyal man and qualified for the job, and because Lincoln was more concerned for the country than for Stanton's opinion of him. When Mr. Stanton looked into the rugged and homely face of Lincoln after he was

killed, he remarked in subdued tones of respect, "There lies the greatest leader this country has ever known." Would it not be nice if Christians would put the interest of the Lord's work and His church before their own petty little injuries? We could use a lot of real men and women who have the spirit of Lincoln with regard to this matter.

A little girl was asked to define forgiveness. She said in substance, "I don't know the definition, but it is like this: when you crush a rose, the only resistance it offers is a sweet fragrance."

Paul might have remembered the ill treatment he received at Philippi, but instead he said: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mind for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-4)

*Luther Blackmon*

## Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

Website: [www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

### Evangelist

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816