

mother got hold of the letter and read it. She went to her daughter and told her that if this was the way her girlfriend felt, she wasn't going to set foot in her home again, and she meant it. She wouldn't allow her daughter's girlfriend to come into her home. The daughter was the major support of that home, but she respected her mother's wish, and so the two Christian friends met outside the home.

Some time passed. Then one day the Pastor went to see the mother. He told her she ought to forgive her daughter's girlfriend, and suggested she invite her to her home for dinner as a kind gesture to show she had forgiven her. But the mother replied, "Oh, I forgave her long ago, but she can just stay in her own place." You see, that mother's forgiveness was not sincere, for although she said she had forgiven her daughter's girlfriend, inwardly she hadn't forgiven her, and her refusal to invite her to her home for dinner proved it. In the same way, our forgiveness is not sincere if we merely say we have forgiven the one who offended us but inwardly we haven't forgiven that person.

If someone offends us then, and we forgive that person in the manner in which Jesus says we are to forgive him, our forgiveness must be sincere! It must come straight from the heart! We must feel and act towards that person just as though the offense had not been committed.

Fifth, the serious consequence of refusing to forgive.

The serious consequence of refusing to forgive is that the Lord will be angry with us and will chasten us until we give the forgiveness He requires.

In verses 34 and 35 of this passage we read, "And his lord", i.e., the king "was angry and delivered him", i.e., the satrap "to the inquisitors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise, "just