

1) **We MUST forgive**

Luke 17:1-6

- Luke & Matthew record the events and this teaching of Jesus Matt 18
- Jesus expands on the need to Forgive Matt 18:23-35
- *“Make allowances for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you”* Col 3:13
- *“Be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”* Eph 4:32

2) **Jesus’ Solution – Seed Faith – Say – Sea**

a) **Mustard Seed**

- The word **“mustard”** is the Greek word ‘*sinapi*’, which refers to *the small mustard plant that grows from a tiny, miniscule seed.*
- A great amount of faith is not needed to deal with bitterness and unforgiveness.

b) **You can SAY to this Sycamine Tree**

- The word **“say”** is the Greek word ‘*lego*’
- But the Greek tense that is used:
Defines speaking as – **“strong, serious, deeply felt, authoritative”**

c) **Sycamine tree pulled up by the roots into the sea**

- This sycamine tree does not grow in salt water (not much grows in salt water)

Thoughts:

- Don’t wait until the pain eases – do it now!
- Don’t wait for an apology – do it now!
- ***When you forgive, it does not make what they did to you right – it makes you right!***

3) **Offence - Unforgiveness - Bitterness is like Leprosy**

- Miriam (Moses sister) took offence (*spiritual*) – result was Leprosy (*physical*) **Num 12:1**
- a) 10 Lepers Lk 17:11
- b) Naaman 2 Kings 5

4) **Conclusion**

- When opportunity arises to take offence – will you speak out and say:
“No – I’m letting it go! I refuse to dwell on this”
- When memories of hurt surface – will you speak out and say
“No – I’m letting it go!”
- When the 1 x Leper returned to give thanks, Jesus said: Luke 17:19
“And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”