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CROSS A Message from
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Question: What does *Matthew 6:15* mean about forgiving others?

Answer: It says, *“But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* Jesus is saying that if we carry a grudge and refuse to forgive those who hurt us, we destroy the bridge over which we must walk to receive God’s forgiveness.

An old farmer was plowing a field with his mule. Another man was watching from a fence, and finally said, “I don’t want to tell you how to run your business, but you could save yourself a lot of work by saying “gee” and “haw” to that mule instead of pulling on the lines.” The old farmer wiped his brow, then said, “I reckon you’re right, but this critter kicked me five years ago, and I ain’t spoke to him yet.”

Now, that’s carrying a grudge, isn’t it? We can be excused for refusing to forgive an animal who kicks us, but God doesn’t take kindly to our refusing to forgive one another. The consequences for that are serious! Extending forgiveness can be one of the hardest things we do, but it can be done. As Jesus was dying on the cross for the sins of the world, He offered forgiveness to those who crucified Him. Later, when they obeyed the gospel, they received that forgiveness! (*see Acts 2*)

How thankful we should be that GOD doesn’t hold a grudge against us and that He’s willing to forgive us when we surrender to His will!

--Steve McCaslin