

## Episode 7

### Music with a Message FORGIVENESS

[BEGIN MUSIC]

NARRATOR: The image of a loving, forgiving God comes through clearly to those who read and understand the scriptures. Since He is our Father, He naturally desires to raise us up, not push us down; to help us live, not to bring about our spiritual death, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth" He hath said. "Wherefore turn yourselves and live ye." Ezekial 18:32 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" [Isaiah 55:7] What a glorious promise of forgiveness the Lord made through the great Isaiah! Mercy and pardon. What more could men want or hope or pray for?

SONG: Tammy Robinson "Did You Think to Pray?"  
ALBUM: "God Be With You"

NARRATOR: To forgive is a divine attribute. It is to pardon or excuse someone from blame for an offense or misdeed. The scriptures refer to forgiveness in two ways. The Lord commands us to repent of our sins and seek His forgiveness. He also commands us to forgive those who offend or hurt us.

SONG: Kenneth Cope "In Humility, Our Savior"  
ALBUM: "A Prayer Unto Thee."

NARRATOR: "Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more" [D&C 58:42]. The purging out of sin would be impossible but for the total repentance of the individual and the kind mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ and his atoning sacrifice.

SONG: Gladys Knight, "Mercy's Arms"  
ALBUM: "Many Different Roads."

NARRATOR: When the natural man is born again his habits are changed, his thoughts cleansed, his attitudes regenerated and elevated, his activities put in total order, and everything about him that was dirty, degenerate or reprobate is washed and made clean. The effect of the cleansing is beautiful. Troubled souls have found peace. The soiled robes have been cleansed to spotlessness. These people formerly defiled having been cleansed through repentance, they're washing, they're purging, they're whitening, are made worthy to be found before the throne of God, associating with divine royalty.

SONG: Matthew Bardsley "Born Again"

ALBUM: Jenny Barnes, "The Miracle."

NARRATOR: A Christlike heart is inclined always to forgiveness. Mormon described how the righteous grow "stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation... even to the purifying and sanctification of their hearts" [Helaman 3:35]. This process brings a change of heart. In other words, we lose the disposition to do evil and desire to do good continually. Our relationships with our fellow man become Christlike. "And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due" [Mosiah 4:13].

SONG: Voice Male "Lord, I Would Follow Thee."

ALBUM: Hymns II

NARRATOR: As we plead for mercy, we need to show mercy to others. The injury people do us may appear at the moment to be very great. Yet just as time heals the wounds of the body, so time also heals the wounds of the soul. As we apply disinfectants to aid in healing the wounds of the body, we need to try love and understanding in disinfecting the wounds of the soul. To the extent we give forgiveness to others we can expect to receive forgiveness for ourselves.

SONG: John Batdorf "Let it Go"

ALBUM: Michael McLean "The Other Side of Sorrow"

[END MUSIC]