3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
006 - LESSON – Wednesday – May 6

Moses, Godly Leader

MEMORY TEXT: Exodus 33:15-23 (NKJV) "(15) Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us,* do not bring us up from here. (16) For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who *are* upon the face of the earth." (17) So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." (18) And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." (19) Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." (20) But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." (21) And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. (22) So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. (23) Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

Although Enoch clearly had a very close relationship with God, we have more insight into Moses' relationship with God and can even read numerous accounts of Moses' conversations with Him. As we journey with Moses through the ups and downs of this humble leader's life, we see time and time again that the single most important part of his life and the secret to his success as a godly leader was his constant communication and abiding relationship with God.

What is the content and the manner of the conversation between Moses and the Lord?

Imagine what it would have been like to speak with God and hear His voice so plainly. It's a wonder the Israelites didn't seek this kind of communion with God themselves instead of begging Moses to speak to them on God's behalf *(Exod. 20:18–21)*. Yet, God had prepared Moses for this, beginning with their interaction at the burning bush, on this very same mountain. Although we read of other personal prayers of Moses, we see that he's almost continually in God's presence, asking for guidance and interceding for the people he is leading.

On two occasions, Moses intercedes for family members. What situations surrounded his intercession, and what would have happened had he not stepped in to bridge the gap?

- **Aaron: Aaron built a golden calf and led the Israelites into idolatry, By Moses prayed. Exodus 32:1–14, 31–34, Deut. 9:20**
    - ***Deuteronomy 9:20 (NKJV) "And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.".***

- **Miriam: Mariam murmured against Moses and was turn leprous, But Moses prayed for her to be healed Num. 12:13**
    - ***Numbers 12:13 (NKJV) "So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!""***
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How can you learn to do what you're told here? Why is it important that you do?
Matthew 5:44: Matthew 5:44 (NKJV) "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

Colossians 3:13: Colossians 3:13 (NKJV) "Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

How can you learn to do what you're told here? Why is it important that you do?
You learn this not by **human strength**, but by **spiritual formation** through Christ.

A. Begin with prayer, not feelings
Jesus commands **action before emotion**:

- Pray **for** your enemies, Bless **before** you feel love, Forgive **before** healing feels complete

Prayer realigns the heart to God's perspective.
Obedience often precedes emotion.

B. Remember how Christ treated you
Paul grounds forgiveness in **memory**: "As Christ forgave you…"

Regularly remembering:

- Your own need for mercy, Christ's patience with your failures, The cost of your forgiveness makes extending grace possible.

C. Practice forgiveness as a discipline
Forgiveness is not a one-time feeling—it is a **repeated choice**:

- Choosing not to retaliate, Choosing to release the right to revenge, Choosing to entrust justice to God

Over time, obedience trains the heart.

D. Allow the Holy Spirit to reshape your responses

Loving enemies is **supernatural**, not natural.
Only the Spirit can:

- Replace resentment with compassion, Turn prayer into genuine concern
- Soften hardened reactions, What God commands, He empowers:

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV) "Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'"

Why is it important that you learn to do this?

A. Because it reflects the character of Christ

Jesus forgave **while being wounded**.
When you forgive, you reveal:

- Christ's love, God's mercy, Heaven's values in a broken world

This is how believers are recognized.

B. Because unforgiveness damages the soul

Unforgiveness:

- Chains you to past pain, Pollutes spiritual growth, Hinders prayer and peace

Forgiveness releases you, not just the offender.

C. Because unity in the body of Christ depends on it

Colossians 3 places forgiveness in the context of **community**.
Without it:

- Relationships fracture, Love grows cold, Witness is weakened

Forgiveness preserves the church's testimony.

D. Because God's forgiveness toward you is the model

Jesus ties our forgiveness of others to our understanding of God's mercy.
To refuse forgiveness is to:

- Forget the cross, Minimize grace, Resist transformation

Those forgiven much must forgive much. Luke 7:47 (NKJV) "Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little."