

“PRISONERS LIVING IN THE FREE WORLD”

(Forgiveness – Lesson Two)

(Romans 12:17-21)

Introduction: One of the Messianic prophecies was “*to liberate captives and open prisons*” (*Isaiah 61:1*)! When Jesus began His public ministry, He deliberately chose this prophecy (*Luke 4:16-21*).

I. TO AVOID PRISON, DO NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO CONTROL YOU

**Romans 12:17 *Matthew 5:39-44 *Ephesians 4:31-32*

Note: When a person does not forgive, they are in a spiritual prison.

II. TO AVOID PRISON, AVOID CERTAIN PEOPLE

**Romans 12:18 *Matthew 5:23-24 *Genesis 13:1-9*

Note: When a person does not forgive themselves, they live in guilt!

III. TO AVOID PRISON, TURN PEOPLE OVER TO GOD

**Romans 12:19 *Proverbs 24:17-18 *1 Samuel 1:5-6*

Note: Bitterness can cause us to miss blessings!

IV. TO AVOID PRISON, RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL

**Romans 12:20-21 *Galatians 5:16 *Philippians 4:13 *1 John 4:4*

Note: “Forgiving is not an emotion, but an act of the will.”

Conclusion: All prisoners are not incarcerated! Some are saved!