

Spiritual Murder

George MacDonald, 19th century writer and pastor whose writings greatly influenced C. S. Lewis, said that it may be an infinitely less evil to murder a person than to refuse to forgive him or her.

Murder may be the act of a momentary passion. But unforgiveness involves a continuing choice of the heart.

In refusing to forgive someone, I am shutting him or her out of my world. Again and again I am closing the door on any possibility of mercy and love from me to him or her. It is, says MacDonald, *spiritual* murder.

Jesus had equally strong words about our need to forgive:

"Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ... If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." -- *Jesus (Matt. 6 12-15 NLT)*



Coffee/tea thought: Sometimes forgiveness comes fairly easily, but often it seems impossible. Give me *Your* grace and power, Lord Jesus, to do what *You* ask me to do.

John

Read passage: *Matt. 6.5-18*

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%206.5-18&version=NLT>

属灵意义上的谋杀

乔治·麦克唐纳是19世纪的一位作家和牧师，他的作品对C. S. 鲁益师影响深远。他说杀一个人比不原谅他/她的罪还轻些呢。

谋杀可能只是一时的冲动。但不原谅人需要心里不断地作出选择。

拒绝原谅某人，是在把他/她关闭在我的世界之外。一次又一次地关上任何对他/她表示关爱的机会之门。麦克唐纳说，这就是属灵意义上的谋杀。

耶稣也用同样强的话说我们需要赦免：

“免我们的债，如同我们免了人的债。……你们饶恕人的过犯，你们的天父也必饶恕你们的过犯。你们不饶恕人的过犯，你们的天父也必不饶恕你们的过犯。”——耶稣（马太福音6:12-15）

随想：有时要赦免很容易，但通常看起来不太可能。赐下你的恩典和能力，主耶稣，叫我照你的旨意行。

史建恩