

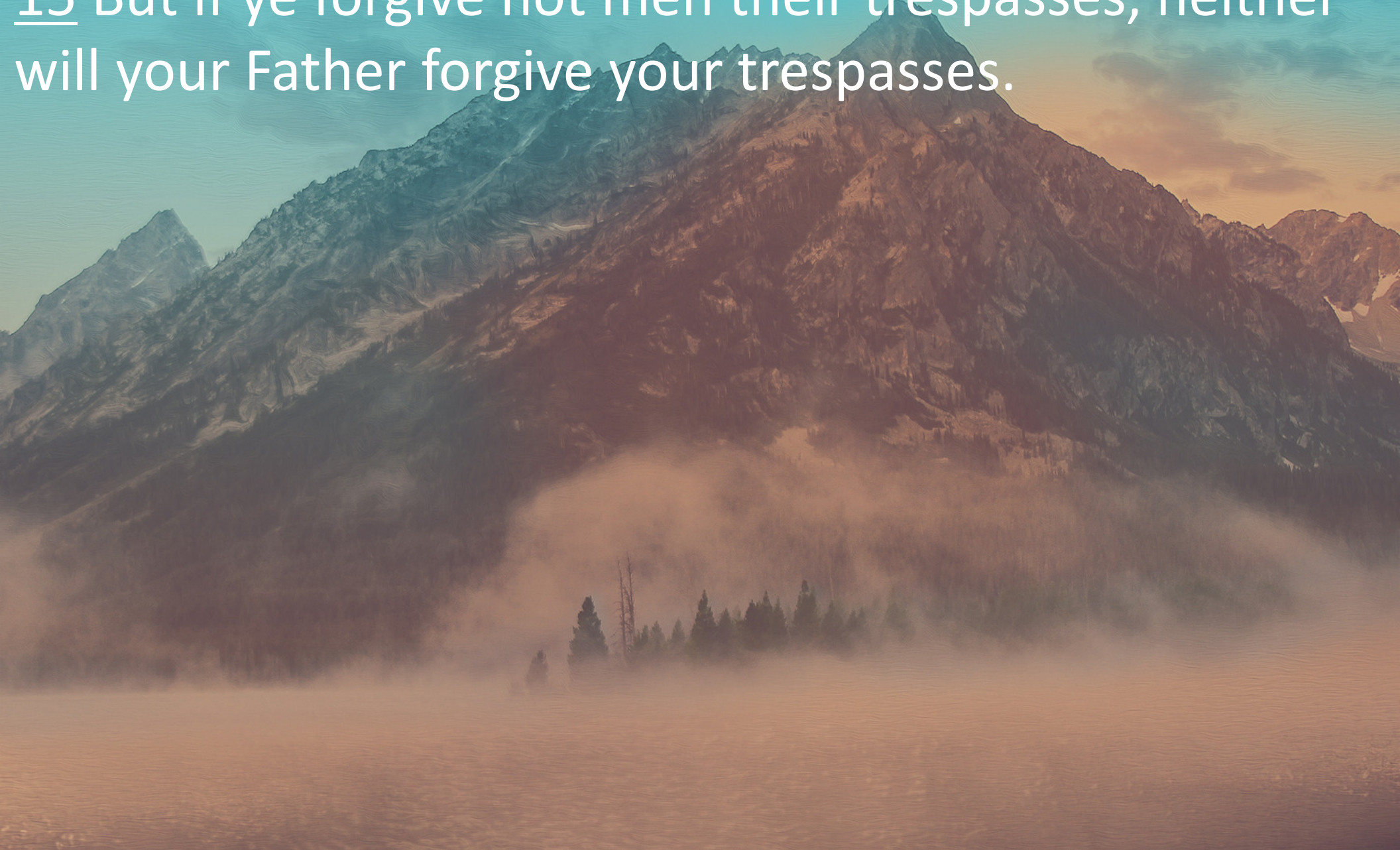
A majestic mountain range at sunrise or sunset, with a lake in the foreground and mist rising from the water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the mountains are rugged and rocky. The text is centered over the image.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 6:14-15

“The Test of Discipleship”

Mt. 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



Review

Back in December we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's review the outline:

- I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16
- II. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BELIEFS, 5:17-20
- III. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BIBLE, 5:21-48
- IV. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BURDENS, 6:1-34
 - A. Burdens Connected with Worship, 6:1-18
 - 1. The Duties of Life, 6:1-4
 - 2. The Devotions of Life, 6:5-15
 - a. The Parody of Prayer, 6:5
 - b. The Place of Prayer, 6:6
 - c. The Principle of Prayer, 6:7-8
 - d. The Pattern of Prayer, 6:9-15



(1) What the Lord Recommended, 6:9-13

(a) The Father's Person, 6:9 (**Relationship and Righteousness**)

(b) The Father's Purpose, 6:10 (**Reigning**)

(c) The Father's Provision, 6:11 (**Request**)

(d) The Father's Pardon, 6:12
(**Reciprocation**)

(e) The Father's Pathway, 6:13a
(**Reservation**)

(f) The Father's Protection, 6:13b
(**Reality**)

(g) The Father's Power, 6:13c (**Realm**)

(h) The Father's Permanence, 6:13d
(**Reminder**)

Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

❖ The Lord Jesus is not negating the Law of Moses; He is clarifying the truth of its intent.

❖ The first three requests are petitions for the coming of the kingdom. The last three are for the needs of the disciples in the interim preceding the establishment of the kingdom.

(2) What the Lord Reiterated, 6:14-15

(a) Duty, 6:14

Mt. 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

- ❖ These verses expands the thought of the fifth petition (v. 12) more fully.
- ❖ Our horizontal relationships with other people must be correct before our vertical relationship with God can be.



Original Word: εἰάν

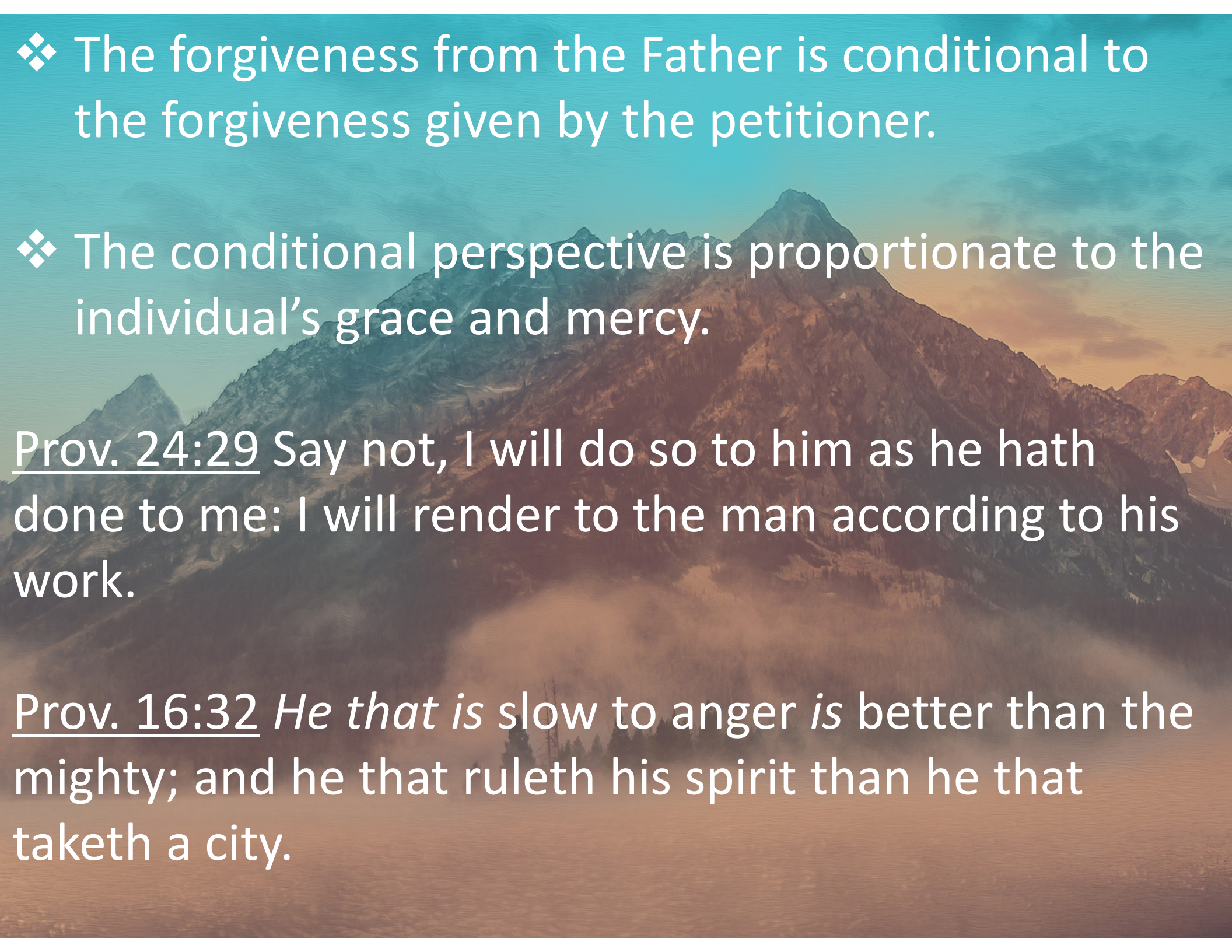
Part of Speech: **Conditional** Conjunction

Transliteration: ean

Definition: if

Usage: if.

eán (a conjunction, derived from *ei*, "if" and *án*, a particle showing a statement is *conditional*) – *if*, referring to a *condition* extending to its "spin-off" *possibilities* – i.e. that happen *if* the condition is actualized or is *valid*. <https://biblehub.com/greek/1437.htm>

- 
- ❖ The forgiveness from the Father is conditional to the forgiveness given by the petitioner.
 - ❖ The conditional perspective is proportionate to the individual's grace and mercy.

Prov. 24:29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

❖ An individual's understanding of God's forgiveness, effectual or deficient, is manifested by the attitude expressed toward another's offense.

Original Word: παράπτωμα

Transliteration: paraptóma

Definition: a false step, a trespass

Usage: a falling away, lapse, slip, false step, trespass, sin.

paráptōma (from *parapíptō*, see there) – properly, fall away after being close-beside, i.e. a *lapse* (deviation) from the truth; an error, "slip up"; wrong doing that can be (relatively) unconscious, "non-deliberate."

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3900.htm>

❖ A “trespass” is a “crossing the line” that causes offense.

TRANSGRESS', *verb transitive*

1. To pass over or beyond any limit; to surpass.
2. In a moral sense, to overpass any rule prescribed as the limit of duty; to break or violate a law, civil or moral. To *transgress* a divine law, is sin. Legislators should not *transgress* laws of their own making.

TRANSGRESS', *verb intransitive* To offend by violating a law; to sin.

❖ All mankind has transgressed against the Creator.

Jer. 2:29 Wherefore will ye plead with me? **ye all have transgressed against me, saith the LORD.**

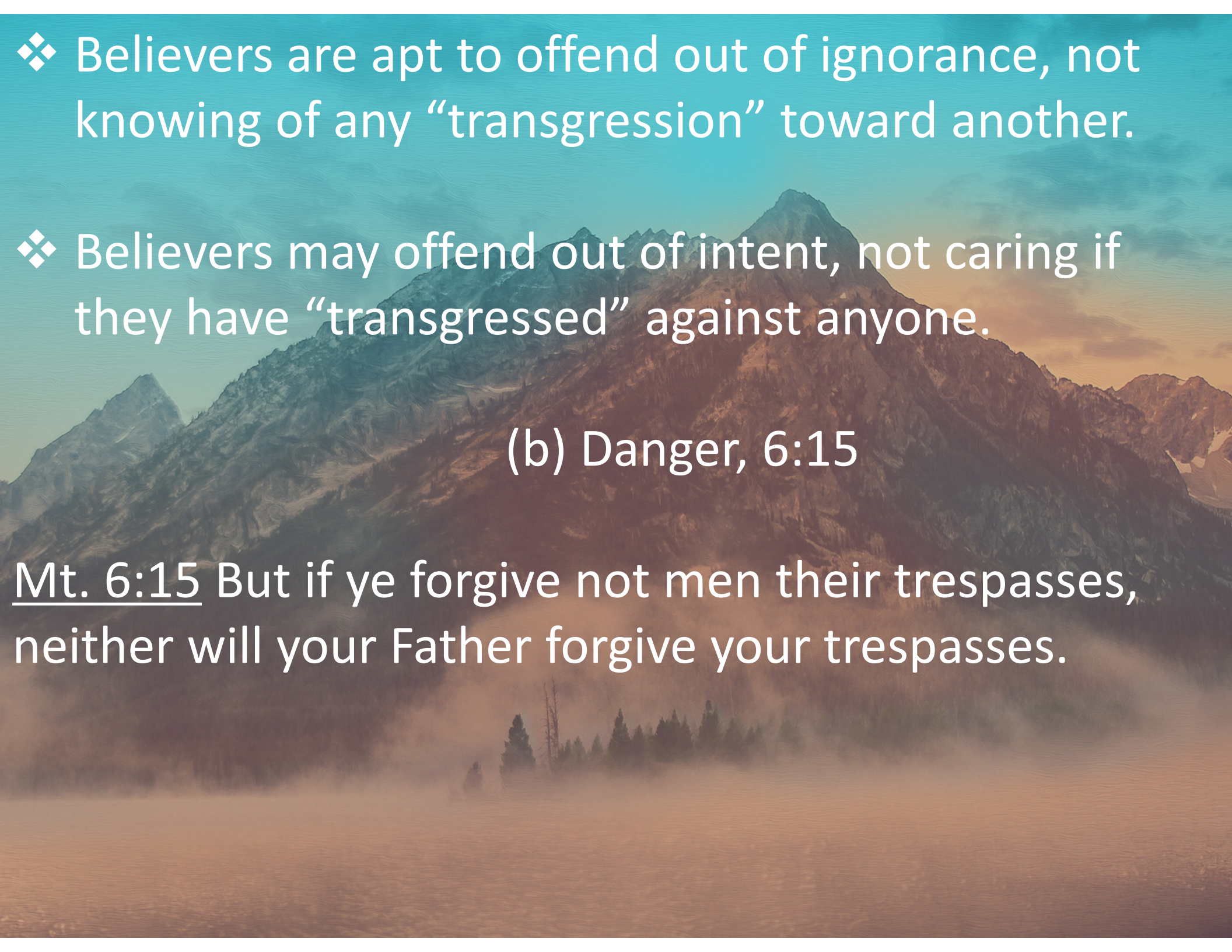
Jer. 33:8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby **they have sinned against me**; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby **they have transgressed against me.**

Dan. 9:11 Yea, **all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice**; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that *is* written in the law of Moses the servant of God, **because we have sinned against him.** All mankind has transgressed against the Creator.

- ❖ All of mankind has transgressed against each other.
- ❖ When believers transgress against each other, there is a process for reconciliation.

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

- 
- ❖ Believers are apt to offend out of ignorance, not knowing of any “transgression” toward another.
 - ❖ Believers may offend out of intent, not caring if they have “transgressed” against anyone.

(b) Danger, 6:15

Mt. 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



❖ A person's true spirituality is manifested by the "test" of offense/forgiveness.

❖ Failing the "test of discipleship" has serious ramifications → broken fellowship with God.

Mt. 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye **from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**

❖ Such broken fellowship affects the efficiency regarding one's prayer life.

Psa 66:18 If I regard **iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:**

Conclusion

- ❖ The principle of this passage is a test of discipleship.
- ❖ An unforgiving person reveals a personal spiritual deficiency – a lack of appreciation for personal forgiveness.
- ❖ Forgiveness received is proportionate to forgiveness given.

Mt. 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Prov. 21:13 Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Jas. 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

❖ True believers live life at a higher standard than those lost or unspiritual.



Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil.

Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.