

For Your Own Good

Beware the preacher who pontificates,
The one who has to tell the people what to do;
Beware bad news, when we are in bad straights:
"Forgiveness is the thing to which we all must hew
Or else!" For though the text appears to say
That God is like a king who'll throw you into jail—
Who, if you don't forgive, will make you pay—
If Jesus said it, he means evil will prevail
Within our hearts, 'cause that's the way things are!
It's how God made it; enmity will eat away,
Forever burning, evermore to scar,
Until its hold by you is loosed; and that's the day
When you discover that what God holds dear
Is you! Forgiveness is what puts you in the clear.

By Scott L. Barton