



## **Essential For Our Freedom (Matthew 18:21-35 - Parable of the Unmerciful Servant)**

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.' (Matthew 18:21-22)

You must continue to forgive for your own sake, so you don't live in bitterness and bound to the past.

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt." (Matthew 18:23-25)

### **\* The Extent Of Our Own Debt**

#### **Luke 7:36ff**

' Those who have been forgiven much love much. Those who have been forgiven little love little.'

"... all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;" (Isaiah 64:6)

- Repayment is impossible

- Mercy is required

"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'" (Matthew 18:26)

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### **\* Understanding Concepts**

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|---------|---|
| Justice | - Giving people what they deserve                     |
| Mercy   | - Not giving people what they deserve (See Luke 6:36) |
| Grace   | - Giving people what they don't deserve               |

"Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

We are to relate to others in exactly the way that God relates to us.

"The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii." (Matthew 18:27-28a)

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

"He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the gaolers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed." (Matthew 18: 28b-34)

'Torture' = spiritual torment



*"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."  
(Matthew 18: 35)*

**'Jesus warns that if you do not forgive from the heart, you will suffer some kind of spiritual torment. In other words, you are opening a door to the enemy's influence in your life.'**

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### **What Does It Mean To Forgive From The Heart?**

- \* Not just a quick statement.
- \* Must face the pain and hate that we feel.

**"Lord, I choose to forgive [name]  
for [specifically what they did] which made me feel [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]"**

We have to let God lead us to the emotional core where the healing is going to take place

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### **The Crisis Of Forgiveness**

**\* Forgiveness must be extended to others. But the crisis is only between God and us**

*"... if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24)*

- i.e. If you have offended someone else, go to that person.  
If someone has offended you, go to God.

Your freedom does not depend upon others whom you have no right or ability to control.

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**\* Why forgive? To stop the pain!**



**Who's hooked?**

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **What Is Forgiveness?**

**\* Not forgetting**

*"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:34)*

A decision to let it go, to not bring up the past and use it against us.

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**\* Not tolerating sin**

(See 1 Peter 2:13-18 & Romans 13:1-7)

'You have every right to put a stop to sin by laying down Biblical guidelines, or by removing yourself from a particular situation. That is not at all inconsistent with forgiveness.'

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Not seeking revenge**

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_



Why should I let them off the hook?  
Where is the justice? In the Cross.

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Resolving to live with the consequences of another's sin**

- We have to do it anyway
- Our only choice is whether we do it in the bondage of bitterness or the freedom of forgiveness

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Forgiveness is to set a captive free and then realise that you were the captive**

**This is not primarily about right and wrong.  
It's about clearing rubbish out of your life and walking away from it.**

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