

Gospel of Matthew “Forgive From the Heart”
Matthew 18:21-35
October 15th, 2023

Matthew 18:21–22 ESV

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Is there a limit to forgiveness?

Rabbis may have been teaching you can just forgive 3 times.

Matthew 18:23–35 ESV

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

This is a shocking story

“Have patience with me”

Matthew 6:12 ESV

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

To be a Christian is to forgive

Forgiveness is like breathing

Forgiveness is granted (often a good while) before it is felt—not felt before it is granted. It is a promise to not exact the price of sin from the person who hurt you. . . . It is likely you have always thought, “Well, I have to feel it before I grant it. I have to start feeling less angry before I start to not hold them liable.” If you wait to feel it before you grant it, you’ll never grant it; you’ll

be in an anger prison.

The cross is the level ground for all of us.

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift

Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you..

Dear Jesus, I forgive _____ for _____. I have held on to hurt, resentment, and bitterness. I confess that I've tried to make _____ pay for what was done to me. I now realize I have been held in a prison of bitterness because of it. Lord Jesus, I choose not to hold onto my resentment any longer. I thank you for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness. I relinquish my right to seek revenge and ask you to heal my damaged emotions. I now ask you to bless _____. In Your Name. Amen.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) How has God's forgiveness changed you? How does receiving forgiveness from others or offering it to others change you?
- 3.) What's the most extreme example of someone's debt being paid off you've ever heard of? How is Jesus's story in this passage meant to shock us? Why should it shock us?
- 4.) How does God's love and forgiveness of us inform how we should love and forgive others?
- 5.) When we forgive others what are we declaring about God?
- 6.) How is reconciling better than worship according to the Words of Jesus in Matthew 6:23-24
- 7.) Things to quietly reflect on (after silent reflection, if anyone wants to share, allow them to.)
 - Is there anyone you need to forgive? What's stopping you? Are you in the prison of unforgiveness right now?
 - Is there anyone you would like to receive forgiveness from? Ask good for courage to approach them and ask for forgiveness.
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If able pray this prayer find a quiet time and place to ask God to show you anyone you may need to forgive. As he reveals people to you pray the prayer below.

"Dear Jesus, I forgive _____ for _____. I have held on to hurt, resentment, and bitterness. I confess that I've tried to make _____ pay for what was done to me. I now realize I have been held in a prison of bitterness because of it. Lord Jesus, I choose not to hold onto my resentment any longer. I thank you for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness. I relinquish my right to seek

revenge and ask you to heal my damaged emotions. I now ask you to bless
_____. In Your Name. Amen.”

8.) From your Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?