

P&F - Day 18: Forgive

Make Room for God's Heart | Scripture Study | NIV

1. Matthew 6:12-15 - Forgiveness and God's mercy

- 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray in the Sermon on the Mount. The Greek word translated *debts* is *opheilomata*, referring to something owed; here it describes moral and spiritual indebtedness to God.

Jesus returns specifically to forgiveness after the prayer. He establishes a serious relationship between receiving God's mercy and extending forgiveness to others.

What this reveals about God's heart: God takes both mercy and our treatment of others seriously.

2. Colossians 3:12-13 - Clothed in compassion

- 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Paul begins by reminding believers that they are chosen, holy, and dearly loved. Their identity comes before his instructions.

Putting on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience suggests intentional, visible behavior. The Greek verb *charizomai*, used for forgiveness, is related to *charis*, grace or favor.

What this reveals about God's heart: Forgiveness belongs to a larger transformation into compassion and grace.

3. Ephesians 4:31-32 - Putting away bitterness

- 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Paul contrasts bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and malice with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. He does not merely tell believers what to stop doing; he describes what should grow in its place.

The Greek word *pikria* refers to bitterness or an embittered disposition. God's forgiveness in Christ is the model for how believers treat each other.

What this reveals about God's heart: God cares not only about what we put away, but about the character we cultivate.

4. Mark 11:25 - Forgiveness in prayer

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Jesus teaches about faith and prayer in Mark 11 and then introduces forgiveness. Prayer is not disconnected from our relationships.

The phrase *anything against anyone* is broad. Yet this verse does not specifically address restoring trust, reconciliation, or renewed access to someone who has caused harm. Those questions require wisdom and discernment.

What this reveals about God's heart: God cares about the condition of our hearts when we approach Him.

The connection across all four passages

God's forgiveness is both the gift we receive and the example we are called to follow. Matthew emphasizes its seriousness; Colossians the character that supports it; Ephesians the transformation of our attitudes; and Mark its place in prayer.

Reflection: What stands out to you about God's heart in these four passages?