Living a Life of Forgiveness

BEING ALL IN WITH GOD

MATTHEW 5:18-35

"Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive."

– C. S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

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 bags of gold was brought to him. 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.

At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[i] 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 it 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 outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled 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 handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

1. We forgive much because we have been forgiven much

Colossians 3:13

Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Holding onto unforgiveness oftentimes is rooted in hypocrisy and pride.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

2. There is no limit on forgiving others

Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”
Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. Forgiveness Frees Yourself

Ephesians 4:26-27

In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold.

4. Forgiveness is not the same thing as Reconciliation

Forgiveness is a one person internal choice to let go of anger and resentment and give it over to God.

Reconciliation is a process of rebuilding trust and restoring relationships.

Genesis 50: 19-21

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

5. Pray for those who Hurt You

Matthew 5:44

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

1. Forgive much because We have been Forgiven Much.
2. There is no Limit on Forgiveness.
3. Forgiveness Frees Yourself.
4. Forgiveness and Reconciliation is not the Same Thing
5. Pray for those who Hurt you.