

#2 Cancel Their Debt

Matthew 18:21-35

1. WE ARE CALLED BY OUR LORD JESUS TO FORGIVE

Matt. 18:21-22 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 times seven.”

Luke 17:3-4 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

2. IT TAKES FAITH TO FORGIVE

Luke 17:5-6 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

3. THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES OF HOLDING ON TO OFFENSE

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Matt. 18:23-27 “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.

Matt. 18:28-35 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.**”

4. THE KEY TO FORGIVING FROM THE HEART IS FAITH

FAITH to See the Offense Accurately

500,000:1

FAITH to Treat the Offender Mercifully

FAITH to Cancel their Debt Immediately

Biblical forgiveness is NOT:

- saying what they did was OK or pretending like it never happened
- the absence of any anger over their sin
- the same as reconciling with them or trusting them again

The Forgiveness Promise

I promise to stop being their judge.

I promise to stop holding the offense against them and rehearsing it over and over in my imagination.

I promise to cease repaying evil with evil.

I promise to not bring it up again to them or others.

I promise to start praying blessing over them and speaking well of them.

I promise to seek reconciliation with them in those situations where it is appropriate and God is leading me to do so.

THE TIME TO FORGIVE IS NOW!

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New Life Church/August 15, 2021