

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Summer Bible Institute Series
Forgiveness: The Turning Point to Good Endings
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Forgiveness: The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35 (KJV) Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

FORGIVENESS IS HARD! Knowing how and what to do does not make it easy!

Forgiveness is NOT an emotion!

"Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."

- Corrie ten Boom

Steps to consider when you struggle to forgive:

Step 1: Recognize our own need to be forgiven. (p. 50)

"Until we recognize our need for forgiveness and the extent to which we have been pardoned, we will find it impossible to extend forgiveness to others.

Step 2: Isolate the root issue of our offense/anger. (p.51)

Avoid generalizations. "they did me wrong". Be specific.

Step 3: Confine the offense to those affected.

NO SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS! You become the assailant not a victim.

Step 4: Acknowledge the hurt and anger.

"Anger is like a 'check engine' warning light". You cannot forgive what you have not acknowledged.

Step 5: Accept God's Direction on handling the offense.

"Forgiveness is supernatural" (p.52). "Forgiveness is part of our spiritual DNA" (p. 48).

Nothing you try biologically or mentally or emotionally will succeed if you shortcut the spiritual strength needed to forgive.

QUESTION 1: What are some of the offences for which God and others have forgiven you throughout your life? Do you see that forgiveness as something you ***deserved*** or as being ***merciful***?

JOURNAL: Take time to name your offenders that you have not yet forgiven and released. Acknowledge their offense and harm specifically. Write down how you were hurt and how you have responded emotionally to the hurt.