



## PART 4: FORGIVEN & FORGING

---

### Sermon Notes

**Text: Matthew 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-35**

#### Introduction

Forgiveness is a daily need just like our daily bread. Not because sin makes us lose our salvation, but because it causes us to lose our closeness with our Abba.

Revenge is a natural reaction to being hurt, but Jesus offers us a better solution: Forgiveness.

“When you try to get payment through revenge the evil does not disappear. Instead it spreads, and it spreads most tragically of all onto you and your own character” ~Tim Keller

“Unforgiveness is like drinking deadly poison and hoping the other person dies.” ~Margaret Stunt

"You want to be happy for a while? Revenge. You want to be happy forever? Forgive." ~Tertullian

#### 1. The Debt of Sin

Financial debt is a major problem in our world, but what most people are unaware of is their spiritual debt.

Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

#### 2. The Cost of Forgiveness

Colossians 2:14 “having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; [Jesus] has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”

When the king in the parable cancelled the debt of the servant the debt did not just disappear. The king had to pay it himself! Jesus paid our spiritual debt through his death on the cross.

Forgiveness means giving up the right to seek repayment from the one who harmed you. It means paying the debt yourself.

#### 3. The Qualification

Matthew 6: 14-15 “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 18:34-35 “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.”

Forgiveness is a free gift from God - paid for by the blood of Jesus. We can't earn it, but this story tells us that we can lose it. We can disqualify ourselves.

A heart that is unwilling to forgive is one that hasn't understand it's own need for forgiveness.

If we haven't learned to forgive, we haven't learn how to be Christians.

Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

“Forgive your enemies it messes with their heads” ~Charles Martin

### **Conclusion**

A few key points to consider:

1. Forgiveness is not condoning
2. Forgiveness is not forgetting
3. Forgiveness doesn't always mean reconciling
4. Forgiveness is a different issue that justice and consequences
5. Forgiveness is a process

### **Life Group Discussion**

1. What was one take-out for you from the message Sunday?
2. Why do you think Jesus used the word “debt” in the Lord’s prayer to represent our sins? How is sin like a debt?
3. Read Matthew 18:21-35.
  - What stands out to you about this story?
  - Mercy and justice are juxtaposed in this story. How do God’s mercy and justice relate to one another? James 2:13 might have some insight (it might be helpful to read starting at v. 8 to give context)
4. Colossians 3:13 says “Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” What does this mean? What does Jesus’ forgiveness look like, and therefore, what should ours look like?

5. Read Matthew 5:23-26 and Matthew 18:15-20.

- What stands out to you about these passages?
- What do they say about our responsibility when it comes to forgiveness and reconciliation?

6. Pray together:

- a) Pray that those who struggle with guilt and shame would experience the freedom of God’s forgiveness.
- b) Pray for those who are in pain because of past hurts, that they would be able to forgive and move on.
- c) Pray for our church during the 28 Days of Prayer
- d) Other requests:
  - 
  - 
  - 
  -