



FORGIVENESS IS FOR YOU

Read Matthew 18:21-22.

Who do you relate to in these verses? Jesus clearly expects us to continuously walk in forgiveness, but Peter's thinking is, surely there must be a limit.

If I'm not careful to intentionally walk in obedience to the Lord, I could easily err on the side of Peter. And it may feel as if my refusal to forgive is punishing the person, giving them what they rightfully deserve, my mind will try and convince me; but it turns out, withholding forgiveness towards others, actually harms me, even more than it does them.

Read Matthew 18:23-35.

In this parable, we have three main characters. Who are the characters?

In verse 23, Jesus, the one sharing this parable, compares the parable to what?

I want you to use your imagination with me. I want you to imagine the king in the parable is God. The servant in the parable is you.

And

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the fellow servant in the parable is someone you are currently struggling to forgive.

How much did the servant owe the king?

This was no small debt! And the servant was not in position to pay it back at the time.

The king would've had every right to deal harshly with his servant. But how does the king respond to this very large debt, and his servant's inability to pay it, according to verse 27?

Wow! The king could have just extended the servant's time to pay back the debt. That alone would have been very gracious of him. But he completely canceled the debt. Removing not only the debt, but the burden of the debt off of the servant's shoulders.

One would imagine that the servant walked away from this experience very grateful and more than willing to extend the same forgiveness towards others, when the opportunity presents itself. But unfortunately, we already know how this ends, don't we?

When the servant left the king's presence, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him. How much did the fellow servant owe the servant?





The fellow servant owed a much smaller debt than the servant owed the king.

How did the servant, respond to the fellow servant's inability to pay him?

When the king learned of what transpired between the servant and the fellow servant, was he happy about it?

YES or NO

As to be expected, the king was not happy to hear that his servant, whose debt he graciously canceled, was strong arming his fellow servant over a debt owed to him.

Remember that I asked you to imagine God, yourself, and someone you were struggling to forgive in this story.

Well, it turns out that we didn't need to imagine at all.

Read verse 35 again.

According to Jesus in verse 35, this is exactly how the Heavenly Father will treat each of us, who choose not to forgive others from our hearts.

So, let me ask you, who are you struggling to forgive?





If someone comes to mind, I encourage you to pray to God, tell Him the truth about how hard it is to forgive this person and why. Tell Him you want to be obedient to Him, and ask Him to help you forgive.

Remember, God opened the door to forgiveness to us, through His Son Jesus's death on the cross, long before we were ever sorry for our sins. Our Heavenly Father canceled our debts, and He is expecting us to cancel ours as well.

Let's end with prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your son Jesus to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank You for loving us and teaching us how to love and how to forgive. Please help us to do hard things. Extend us Your grace and infuse us with Your strength and power. To You be the glory and honor, forever and ever. In Jesus name, Amen.

