

The Forgiven Forgive!

Matthew 18:21-35

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Every game has “rules” of acceptable and unacceptable behavior
- Rules for Relationships in Life
- Relationships are messy!

The Forgiven Forgive!

A. The Set-Up

1. Jesus’ teaching on confronting a sinning brother—Matthew 18:15-20
 - a. The Procedure—Matt. 18:15-17
 - b. The Promises—Matt. 18:19-20
 - 1) Assured answers to prayer
 - 2) Assured Christ’s personal presence
2. Three-fold Meaning of Forgiveness
 - a. “*charizomai*”—to forgive freely, offer a gift
 - b. “*apoluo*”—to release, to let go one’s grip
 - c. “*aphiemi*”—to “send-off”
3. Peter Questions the Rule: How many times?
 - a. Pharisaical Rule: “*Three times and you’re out!*”
 - b. Peter’s Rule: “*Seven times and you’re out!*”
 - c. Jesus Rule; “*You’re never out!*”
 - 1) No limit on times for forgiveness
 - 2) No limit on daily forgiveness—Luke 17:3-4

B. The Story: Parable of the Wicked Servant

1. We’ve been forgiven much. Matthew 18:23-27
 - a. Natural details of the King and his indebted servant
 - b. Spiritual Applications
 - 1) God is the “king”
 - 2) The un-repayable debt is the sin debt each of us owes God
 - 3) The punishment reminds us of hell
 - 4) The “accounting” is the conviction of the Spirit of God
 - 5) Proper response—humility, crying out to God for mercy
 - 6) Improper response—try to clean up one’s act
 - 7) In the end, God graciously forgives ALL of our sins.
2. We who have been forgiven much should forgive the “little”. Matthew 18:28-34
 - a. The appalling treatment by the forgiven debtor
 - b. The Forgiven Forgive—Titus 3:2-7
3. If we refuse to forgive the little, we will...
 - a. Distress others in the body of Christ—Matthew 18:31
 - b. Experience the disciplinary hand of the Lord—Matthew 18:32-35