

The Gift of Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21 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.

- Unforgiveness after being hurt, angry, suffering loss, envy, real or false guilt affects bodily functions
- Headaches, stomach aches, muscle tension, joint pain, dizziness and tiredness can result from not forgiving
- Bitter people can't sleep
- Bitter people get ulcers
- Bitter people are no fun to be around
- Bitterness causes high blood pressure
- In fact, the negative power of feeling bitter is so strong that the authors call for the creation of a new diagnosis called PTED, or post-traumatic embitterment disorder, to describe people who can't forgive others' transgressions against them.
- Lack of forgiveness, which often occurs as a result of having been hurt, humiliated, angered, or having suffered fear or loss, feelings of guilt, or envy, can have profound effects on the way your body functions.
- Physically the body is in a state of stress. Muscles tighten, causing imbalances or pain in the neck, back and limbs. Blood flow to the joints is restricted, making it more difficult for the blood to remove wastes from the tissues and reducing the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the cells. Normal processes of repair and recovery from injury or arthritis are impaired. Clenching of the jaws contributes to problems with teeth and jaw joints. Headaches can become a problem. Chronic pain may get worse.
- Blood flow to the heart is constricted. Digestion is impaired. Breathing may become more difficult. Anger can seriously impair the immune system, increasing the risk of infections and illness.

1. We are to forgive 21 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.
 - a. Peter felt like he was being generous and saying that they should forgive so many times

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- b. Jesus took that to the nth degree in 70 times 7. That means to the highest possible number
 - c. Forgiveness is a way of life for us Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.
 - d. We let people take advantage of us Matthew 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.
 - e. We go the second mile Matthew 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.
 - f. We pray for those that hurt us Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
 - g. We are to “be” certain things in this verse Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.
 - h. Follow Jesus’ example Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.
 - i. No one could live this way who had not experienced such great salvation
 - i. This salvation and forgiveness story may seem so out of proportion that you can’t believe it
 - ii. The problem is that you aren’t forgiven and so you do not get the concept
 - iii. Today is your day. Why don’t you trust Christ today!
2. Jesus tells a story of forgiveness to illustrate the truth for us
- b. He uses the story of a king and his servants 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.
 - i. Both are servants to the king
 - ii. In the story the king would represent God Himself
 - c. The first servant mentioned owes a large debt that he is unable to pay 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.
 - i. 10,000 talents was about 200,000 years of salary for a working man or the working life time of 4,255 people
 - ii. 10,000 talents would weigh about 750,000 pounds of gold
 - iii. The 10,000 talents would be worth about \$108,000,000 in today’s money
 - d. Though the servant couldn’t pay he promised he would if given the opportunity 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.
 - i. Bill Gate’s net worth is approximately \$79,000,000,000 according to Forbes
 - 1. Forbes says that Bill Gates net worth is greater than the GDP of 140 countries
 - 2. There are only about 200 countries in the world
 - ii. That would leave even him owing \$29,000,000,000
 - 1. 104 countries couldn’t make this payment
 - 2. Meaning that if Bill Gates could pay all that he had he would still need to have the gdp of about another 104 countries to get out of debt
 - 3. That means he would out of debt but still homeless, and destitute
 - iii. Just remember you aren’t as rich as Bill Gates by a long shot
 - iv. The point is the debt was impossible to pay

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- v. You owed a debt you couldn't pay either
 - vi. It was Jesus who paid your debt
 - vii. The salvation you enjoy is not something you could ever have done on your own
 - e. The servant simply asked to be forgiven and the king was merciful 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.
 - i. That is all that is done when you get saved
 - ii. You realize how you have sinned
 - iii. You realize that you are unable to get where you can please God
 - iv. You ask for grace and mercy from a God who loved you before you ever loved Him
 - v. He comes to you when you couldn't and offers you salvation, right now
 - f. The servant had been forgiven but still thinking only of himself went looking for money for himself 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.
 - i. 100 pence would be less than 17 weeks of wages for a working man
 - ii. A McDonald's worker working only one job would be debt free in less than 6 months and still be able to at least eat
 - g. The forgiven refused to forgive 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.
 - h. Others couldn't understand how a person who had received such great grace could still be so cruel to others 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:
 - i. The king wanted to know how it was that the forgiven could still have such selfishness and hatred in his heart 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?
 - j. He is turned over to the tormenters to receive what he actually deserved 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.
 - k. God warns us that if we do not forgive we will never truly enjoy the forgiveness that we have been given 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.
3. Jesus is teaching us how to forgive
- a. We forgive as we pray and ask for our own forgiveness if we follow His formula Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. 14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - i. Our salvation is not dependent on our forgiving others

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- ii. But the heart attitude shown makes it clear that if you are not a forgiver you will not reap the benefits of being forgiven
- iii. If you are still bitter and hateful though you are forgiven then you are still in the prison of loneliness, isolation, hurt, that is destroying you and all those around you
- iv. This isn't a work added to your salvation but a truth revealing what happens in our hearts as we selfishly seek for ourselves while not for others
- v. You may be forgiven but you will never get the blessings of being free from the guilt till you surrender your rights to hate others
- b. Real forgiveness has several steps involved
II Corinthians 2:6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. 7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. 8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. 10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; 11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.
 - i. The person had repented in this story
 - ii. They were to forgive him
 - 1. That meant that they would comfort him
 - 2. It meant that they would confirm their love
 - 3. It meant that work to be sure that he wasn't swallowed up in too much sorrow from what he had done wrong
 - a. Don't mention it again
 - b. Don't keep bringing it up
 - c. Don't do things that puts the focus on the failure but rather on the victory
 - 4. If they didn't forgive correctly then Satan would get an advantage over them and the church
 - 5. Would they be obedient, do what they should, even if they didn't feel like it
- c. We forgive as we have been forgiven Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
 - i. He didn't forgive us for anything that we did
 - ii. The apology isn't the reason we were forgiven
 - iii. Our prayer didn't get us forgiveness
 - iv. We were forgiven because He is good
 - 1. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself
II Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
 - 2. He loved us when we totally deserved the opposite Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - v. We were forgiven because Jesus took our consequences
- d. The benefits of forgiving

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- i. Forgiving others releases you
 - ii. Forgiving gets the focus off of you
 - iii. Forgiving others or even your mom of their deficiencies and hurts against you will bring healing to them or your mother and to you
 - iv. This frees them as well as us
 - v. Your children are learning how to treat you by how you treat your parents or others
 - e. Put yourself in their shoes and consider what you say and think about when you mess up
 - f. Realize that you owe a debt that you could never pay
 - g. Realize that holding on to the grudge is hurting you worse than it is the other person
 - h. You are setting an example for your children and others to follow
 - i. It is your choice
 - i. You can choose to be a victim
 - ii. You can choose to be a victor and forgive
4. Steps in forgiving others
- a. Believe with all your heart that it is God's will that you forgive like He has forgiven you
 - b. Forgiveness means to
 - i. To release them from what they owe us.
 - ii. To give the gift of mercy
 - iii. You are choosing to move forward and not get lost in your past
 - c. Remember that the person you are holding a grudge against likely tried their best. They might not have handled things correctly but they were trying and doing what they knew to do
 - d. They are unable to repay you for those wrongs
 - e. Understand who you are really hurting: The bitterness you are holding is hurting you and your own children more than your mother or the other person you hate
 - f. We choose to forgive or not. We can choose peace. We do not have to continue to feel like a victim

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Vision Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church pastored by Austin Gardner. We are located in Alpharetta, GA, in the southern end of Forsyth County.

We are a missions-minded church with a goal of fully honoring God and helping families draw closer to Him.

You will feel welcome and loved, and you will receive a wonderful blessing from God's Word when you visit Vision Baptist Church.

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