

FORGIVENESS

Mercy — Part 4

“Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.” Matthew 6:12 (NLT)

MERCY: undeserved **FORGIVENESS** and unearned **KINDNESS**

KEY TRUTH #1: Mercy means God **FORGIVES** me.

Observations about God’s forgiveness:

OBSERVATION #1: God **WANTS** to forgive me.

“You are a God of forgiveness, always ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and full of love and mercy.” Nehemiah 9:17b (TLB)

“You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.” Micah 7:18b (NIV)

OBSERVATION #2: God **FREELY** forgives me.

“All of us have sinned . . . yet now God declares us ‘not guilty’ of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who freely takes away our sins.” Romans 3:23-24 (TLB)

OBSERVATION #3: God **IMMEDIATELY** forgives me.

“God is merciful and quick to forgive.” Isaiah 55:7b (TEV)

OBSERVATION #4: God **COMPLETELY** forgives me.

“. . . God forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ’s cross.” Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT)

“You will have mercy on us again; you will conquer our sins. You will throw away all our sins into the deepest part of the sea.” Micah 7:19 (NCV)

“Mercy triumphs over judgment!” James 2:13 (NIV)

KEY TRUTH #2: Mercy means I forgive **OTHERS**.

QUIZ

- A person should not be forgiven until he or she asks for it. **T F**
- You haven’t really forgiven until you’ve forgotten the offense. **T F**
- Forgiving includes minimizing the offense and the pain caused. **T F**
- Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship. **T F**
- When I see someone hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender. **T F**

#1: Forgiveness is not **CONDITIONAL**.

“Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32b (MSG)

#2: Forgiveness is not **FORGETTING**.

“Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him because he strongly opposed our message.” 2 Timothy 4:14-15 (NIV)

#3: Forgiveness doesn’t mean you **TRUST** the person again.

“...be on your guard against him... 2 Timothy 4:15a (NIV)

#4: Forgiveness is **RELEASING** it to God.

“Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Colossians 3:13b (NLT)