

YOU DON'T NEED TO FORGIVE THEM! He Didn't Say That! – Part 1

ON TV: “Father forgive them for they do not know what they post.”

ON TV: “Fool me once, and I'll forgive you. Fool me twice, and I'll give you hemorrhoids.”

ON TV: “Sorry, you've sinned too much for me to forgive you. I can forgive everybody else, but you really crossed the line.”

ON TV: How do we pray?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “9 This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread.’” Matthew 6:9-11

ON TV: “Forgive us our debts though we're *still holding grudges against other people.*”

ON TV: “I'll forgive you, *but you don't have to forgive* what someone else did.”

ON TV/OUTLINE: “And *forgive us* our debts, as *we also* have forgiven our debtors.” Matthew 6:12

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

ON TV: Who else in your life is **feeling the effects** of that tension in that broken relationship?

ON TV: Relational **DEBT** is extremely costly on both sides of the relationship. It costs you peace, and it **COMPLICATES** other relationships. The game changer is **FORGIVENESS**. It is the way that moves us towards peace.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Forgiveness is a **PROCESS**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Forgiveness is not **CONDONING** what they did.

ON TV: It is possible to find peace **about** the relationship, even if there's never peace **in** the relationship.

ON TV: Unforgiveness is allowing that person to have **RENT-FREE** space in your head.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “23 Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 *leave your gift* there in front of the altar. First go and *be reconciled to them*; then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

ON TV: Who does unforgiveness hurt?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “*Do not take revenge, my dear friends...*” Romans 12:19a

ON TV: The kind of revenge that most of us have is an internal **CELEBRATION** of that person's misfortune.

ON TV: As long as we are internally celebrating their bad news, we are not **FREE**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “*Do not take revenge, my dear friends but leave room* for God's wrath...” Romans 12:19

ON TV: God's wrath is simply His response to **SIN**. Sin is never without **CONSEQUENCES**, and no one ever gets away with sin.

ON TV: It's not our job to give out wrath, its **God's job** to avenge or repay.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "...leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, 'It is mine to avenge. *I will repay,*' says the Lord." Romans 12:19

ON TV: **HURTING** people **HURT** people.

ON TV: When we try to make others pay for what they took, we're shutting God out. God sorts it out when we **LEAVE** it to Him. Unforgiveness ultimately **SHUTS** God out.

ON TV: **FORGIVENESS** allows God in. **Unforgiveness** is a failure to **BELIEVE** that God's not going to do what He said He's going to do.

ON TV: Because if we were confident that God was ultimately going to repay and allow their consequences to catch up with them, we would feel **COMPASSION** for them—not anger.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "On the contrary if your enemy is hungry *feed him*; if he is thirsty, then *give him something to drink...*" Romans 12:20

ON TV/OUTLINE: "...In doing this you will heap *burning coals* on his head." Romans 12:20b

ON TV: It's the place of **repentance**, sorrow, and **remorse**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "...it is *God's kindness* that leads to repentance." Romans 2:4b

ON TV: Maybe for some of you, you can accept the **APOLOGY** that you never received.

ON TV: Maybe then you could give them the **BLESSING** that they never received.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "Do not be overcome by evil, but instead *overcome evil with good.*" Romans 12:21

ON TV/OUTLINE: **Bottom Line:** Peace for you will **BEGIN** when your demand for payment **ENDS**.

ON TV: Who do you need to **FORGIVE**?
Would you forgive the **DEBT**?
Will you take the first **STEP**?

ON TV: You will never passively **FIND** what you do not actively **PURSUE**.

ON TV: What do we do if we're overwhelmed with **hurt**, **anger** or **bitterness**?

ON TV/OUTLINE: "43 You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, *love* your enemies and *pray for* those who persecute you..." Matthew 5:43-44

ON TV: Your prayer for those who hurt you may or may not change them, but it always changes **YOU**.

ON TV: Forgiveness means to **hurl it away**; to **cast it out** of your life.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "Bear with each other and *forgive* one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. *Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*" Colossians 3:13

ON TV: "In the shadow of my hurt, forgiveness feels like a decision to reward my enemy. But in the shadow of the cross, forgiveness is merely a gift from one undeserving soul to another." — Andy Stanley