

TITLE: Why Forgive?

Text: Matthew 18:21-35 NASB

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT...

- 1) Forgiveness is not a sign of **WEAKNESS**
- 2) Forgiveness is not **PRETENDING** like something wrong didn't happen
- 3) Forgiveness is not admitting **DEFEAT**
- 4) Forgiveness is not covering up an **INJUSTICE**

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS....

- 1) Forgiveness is a **CHOICE**
- 2) Forgiveness is more for **US** than it is for **OTHERS**
- 3) Forgiveness is a fruit of **OBEDIENCE**
- 4) Forgiveness is necessary for **HEALING**

WHAT CAN MAKE IT EASIER TO FORGIVE IN THE FUTURE. . .

- 1) Remember that God has **FORGIVEN US**

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Eph. 4:32) NASB

- 2) Forgiveness **FREES** us from **MISERY**

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23) NASB

- 3) Unforgiveness will **BLOCK** God's plan for your life

"Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds." (2 Timothy 4:14) NASB

- 4) Unforgiveness will **IMPRISON** us to our **PAST**

Matthew 18:34-35 – NCV *"The master was very angry and put the servant in prison to be punished until he could pay everything he owed. This king did what my*

heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:34-35) NCV

*"...for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
(Jeremiah 31:34) NASB*

5) Unforgiveness makes us **BECOME** like the one we can't **FORGIVE**