

The Anatomy of Unforgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I **forgive** my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.[a]

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24** As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[b] was brought to him.

25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' **27** The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[c] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. **31** When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' **34** In anger his master handed him over to the **jailers** to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister **from your heart.**"

Unforgiveness is a prison of 4 swinging doors

Door #1 - Replaying the original hurt

Hurt is an unmet expectation

OVERREACTIONS ARE CLUES TO A FAMILIAR HURT

God uses our PIT as PROVISION! Our pain towards our purpose!

The **way out of the first unlocked door** to the **prison** of **unforgiveness** is **letting God** bring **healing** to the **hurt**

Door #2 - Judging their motives

3 Affects of a Judgmental Heart

- 1. Judgment invites judgment**
- 2. Judgment shows you the issue**
- 3. Judgment puts us in a seat we can't fill**

Judgement assumes certainty about things we can't be certain about

The way out of the **second unlocked door** to the **prison** of **unforgiveness** is **curiosity!**

Door #3 - Defending your actions!

Justification kills vulnerability

Proverbs 18.19

A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city; disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

The way out of the **third unlocked door** to the prison of unforgiveness is **stop excusing yourself**, lean in and **grow**

Door #4 - Revenge

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Ever wonder why 77 times?

Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who **persecute** you; **bless** and **do not curse**. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **Live in harmony with one another**. Do not be **proud**, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be **conceited**. **Do not repay anyone evil for evil**.

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath**, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, **feed him**; if he is thirsty, give him something to **drink**. In doing this, you will **heap burning coals on his head**." Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**."

The way out of the fourth unlocked door to the prison of unforgiveness is to **surrender future plans** and **opportunities** for **revenge** and **do good!**

Keep it 490!

Salvation!

Dear Jesus, I thank you for going to the cross in my place. I thank you for loving me so deeply. I admit that I am sinner. I'm not perfect. I need forgiveness. So right now I receive your mercy, your grace and I am forgiven. Come into my heart and be Lord of my life, and make me new. I am yours and I am alive in Jesus name, amen.