

# The Anatomy of Unforgiveness

## Matthew 18:21-35

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**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.