

The Unforgiving Debtor Once Upon A Time –Part #1

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“Peter came up to the Lord and asked, ‘How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?’ Jesus answered: Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times! This story will show you what the kingdom of heaven is like: One day a king decided to call in his officials and ask them to give an account of what they owed him. As he was doing this, one official was brought in who owed him fifty million silver coins. But he didn’t have any money to pay what he owed. The king ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all he owned, in order to pay the debt. The official got down on his knees and began begging, ‘Have pity on me, and I will pay you every cent I owe!’ The king felt sorry for him and let him go free. He even told the official that he did not have to pay back the money. As the official was leaving, he happened to meet another official, who owed him a hundred silver coins. So he grabbed the man by the throat. He started choking him and said, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ The man got down on his knees and began begging, ‘Have pity on me, and I will pay you back.’ But the first official refused to have pity. Instead, he went and had the other official put in jail until he could pay what he owed. When some other officials found out what had happened, they felt sorry for the man who had been put in jail. Then they told the king what had happened. The king called the first official back in and said, ‘You’re an evil man! When you begged for mercy, I said you did not have to pay back a cent. Don’t you think you should show pity to someone else, as I did to you?’ The king was so angry that he ordered the official to be tortured until he could pay back everything he owed. That is how my Father in heaven will treat you, if you don’t forgive each of my followers with all your heart.” (Matthew 18:21–35, CEV)

Quiz

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

What Is Real Forgiveness?

1. It isn’t **CONDITIONAL**
2. It isn’t **MINIMIZING** the seriousness of the offense
3. It isn’t **RESUMING** a relationship without change
4. It isn’t **FORGETTING** what has happened
5. It isn’t **MY RIGHT** when I wasn’t the one who was hurt

Why Must I Forgive?

1. Because **GOD HAS FORGIVEN ME**

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13 NLT)

"God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13–14, NLT)

2. Because **RESENTMENT CONTROLS ME**

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger." (Job 18:4, GNB)

*"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do."
(Job 5:2, GNB)*

*"Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many."
(Hebrews 12:15, NLT)*

3. Because **I WILL NEED FORGIVENESS**

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:14–15, NLT)

How Do I Forgive?

1. By **RELINQUISHING** my right to get even

*"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it. Don't take the law into your own hands."
(Romans 12:19, The Living Bible)*

2. By **RESPONDING** to evil with good

"Do just the opposite. Scripture says, 'If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. By doing those things, you will pile up burning coals on their heads.'" (Romans 12:20, NIV)

3. By **REPEATING** these steps as long as necessary

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Action Steps:

Solutions Counseling
Freedom of Forgiveness by David Augsburger