

Out of This World

Week 4: Debt Free

Objective: To encourage us to offer complete forgiveness to those who have hurt us

Read together:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Romans 8:13

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.

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 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. 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."

Matthew 18:21-35

- Did you ever borrow money from or loan money to a friend or family member? Did it go well or did it cause tension in the relationship?
- Peter thinks he is being generous by suggesting we forgive someone 7 times. Why do we tend to put a number (a limit) on forgiveness?
- When you think of forgiving someone, do you forgive them when they deserve it or do you forgive them regardless?
- In Jesus' parable, the king was never going to get paid back. It just wasn't possible. Does that make his forgiveness more significant or is it simply a matter of 'giving up?' Why?
- Why did the servant who had been forgiven so much choose not to offer forgiveness to one who owed him so little?
- The pastor described forgiveness as a decision to "cancel the debt." How does cancelling debts impact relationships? Have you ever had someone cancel a debt you owed? (financial or otherwise) How did you respond/feel? Did it change the relationship at all?
- How does forgiving those who have hurt us open the door to the Kingdom for others?

Final Thoughts: You can carry around anger and bitterness or you can choose to cancel the debt and be set free from both.

This Week: Is there a debt someone owes you? What do you need to do to cancel that debt?

