



JESUS, PART 6: AMNESIA

We surround ourselves with people who like us. We surround ourselves with people who *are* like us. But Jesus calls us to maintain relationships with those who disagree with us. How do we do that? The key to becoming a merciful person is to view yourself as a person in need of mercy.

THE BIG IDEA: You can't have mercy if you're self-righteous, because mercy comes to those who need it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one of the worst things you did as a child that you asked forgiveness for? What did you learn from your experience?
2. Is the idea of mercy and forgiveness difficult for you to understand? What part of it doesn't add up? Do you have an easier time receiving it, or giving it? Why do you think that is?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Matthew 18:21-35](#).*

²¹ "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven." ²³ "There was a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶ "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. ²⁸ "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. ³¹ "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. ³⁵ "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart." [Matthew 18:21-35 \(NLT\)](#)

4. Do you suppose Peter had a special reason for asking how many times he needed to forgive someone?
5. Why is it so difficult to forgive those who have severely hurt us? What keeps you from practicing forgiveness?
6. How have you seen unforgiveness and bitterness hurt you?
7. When you think about the people you need to forgive, who comes to mind? What is keeping you from forgiving this person?
8. Chris said, "*Until you embrace your need of mercy and forgiveness, you'll never experience the weight of mercy and forgiveness.*" What can the forgiveness we have received from God teach us about forgiving those who hurt us?

MOVING FORWARD

Because forgiveness is such a fundamental part of our relationship with Christ, the Bible has much to say about the dangers of bitterness and the delivering power of forgiveness. During your time with God this week, read the following passages and allow God's Word to deliver you from your bitterness and embrace forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-35, Mark 11:25, Job 5:2, Luke 6:28, Ephesians 4:32, Romans 12:17-21, 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1.

If there is someone in your life who you need to forgive, take the next steps toward forgiving that person this week. Follow the Biblical principles that Pastor Chris discussed in his message on how to forgive others by first praying for that person and then forgiving that person in the same way God forgave you.

WEEKLY READING

Spend some time reading and reflecting on the following verses: Ephesians 4:30-32, Matthew 18:21-35, Hebrews 12:15, Matthew 9:9-13, Matthew 23.