



Restoring Broken Relationships

How to Forgive

Philemon 8-17

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled

A. Open Your Heart

1. Do it for love’s sake - v. 9
2. Do it for others - v. 9
3. Do it for freedom - v. 9

B. Leave Room For God To Work - v. 10-11

1. Trust that God can save people
2. Trust that God can change people

C. Receive Their Repentance

2 Corinthians 2:11

so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

1. Welcome their overture - v. 12

sent back – *anapempsa* - to send back; to refer case to

2. Take them at their word

Romans 12:19

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” says the Lord.

James 4:12

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

D. Trust God’s Sovereignty

1. Engage your will – v. 14

2. Trust God - v. 15-16

Genesis 45:8

Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God...

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...



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