

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Overcoming Unforgiveness

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
January 14, 2024



- **Unforgiveness is a stronghold that holds us in bondage to hurt and pain.**

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT) “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behaviour. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT) Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”

- **We are to forgive continually and without limit.**

Matthew 18:23-35 (NLT) “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to 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 [10,000 talents]. 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 [100 denari]. 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.”

- **Forgiveness is releasing the debt another owes you.**
- **We are to forgive as we have been forgiven by God.**

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

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT) “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

- **True disciples of Jesus are both forgiven and forgiving.**

“To forgive the incessant provocations of daily life - to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son - how can we do it? Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each night, “Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it is to refuse God's mercy for ourselves. There is no hint of exceptions and God means what he says.” C.S. Lewis - The Weight of Glory

Big Idea: Because you are forgiven in Christ – Choose to forgive continually & without limit. How do you apply this today?

- **Choose to forgive.**

1 Corinthians 13:4 “...Love keeps no record of being wronged.” So stop keeping score!

- **Seek to reconcile.**

Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT) “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”

Romans 12:18 (NIV) “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

- **Overcome evil with love.**

Romans 12:21 (NLT) “Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”

Matthew 5:34-44 (NLT) “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbour’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Overcoming Unforgiveness
#9 of 10 - January 14, 2024

- 1) Last week we looked at Overcoming Discouragement and Despair from Psalm 42. How were you able to apply this message this week? How has God been speaking to you?
- 2) Read Matthew 18:21-35. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) Where have you found it hard to forgive in the past? Why is this?
- 6) Why does Jesus expect us to forgive continually and without limit? What happens when we refuse to do this?
- 7) What does it mean to “forgive as God has forgiven us?” Read Colossians 3:13.
- 8) Read Colossians 2:13-14. How does this truth impact our ability and willingness to forgive others?
- 9) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message?
- 10) Review the action steps and scriptures 1) Choose to forgive, 2) Seek to reconcile & 3) Overcome evil with love. What specific steps is God asking you to take today? Pray for one another!



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