

# Making Changes

## Matthew 18:21–35 (NASB95)

- 21 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”
- 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to **seventy times seven**.”
- 23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
- 24 “When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him **ten thousand talents** was brought to him.
- 25 “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.
- 26 “So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’
- 27 “And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.
- 28 “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.’
- 29 “So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’
- 30 “But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.
- 31 “So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.
- 32 “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
- 33 ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’
- 34 “And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.
- 35 “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, **if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.**”

## Three truths about unforgiveness

### 1. Unforgiveness is serious

#### Ephesians 4:26–27 (NASB95)

- 26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,  
27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

~Hate, anger and unforgiveness exposes you to the property of the enemy.

~The poison of unforgiveness harms the vessel it is stored in worse than the one it is directed towards.

~Forgiveness does not make someone else right... it just makes us free!

~Forgiveness is mostly about you!

#### Matthew 6:9–15 (NASB95)

9 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread.

12 ‘**And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’

14 “For **if you forgive** others for their transgressions, your heavenly **Father will also forgive you.**

15 “But **if you do not forgive** others, then your **Father will not forgive** your transgressions.

#### Matthew 6:14–15 (The Message)

14 “In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others.

15 If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part.

### 2. Unforgiveness is petty

~One Talent was equal to 16 ½ years of labor.

~One Denari was equal to one days wages.

### 3. Unforgiveness is ungodly (*It’s not like God*)

#### Psalm 103:8–11 (NASB95)

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

9 He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.

10 **He has not dealt with us according to our sins**, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

#### What does forgiveness mean?

1. **Bringing the balance to zero** (*Let Go*)

2. **Forfeiting the right to Disgrace**

3. **Removing all Judgement** (*Take away*)

## How do I forgive from my heart?

**1. Humble your heart** (*Remember the cost of your own sin*)

**2. God loves the offender**

people who have frustrated (awkward)  
people who are difficult (annoying)  
people who have caused pain (agonizing)  
people who have caused devastation (apocalyptic)

**3. Disqualify yourself as a judge** (*you don't know their story*)

**4. Bless the offender and pray for them**

**Luke 6:28 (NASB95)**

**28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

~When you start giving grace away... God pours more grace into you.

**5. Resist the Devil**

~The Devil wants you to pick up the offenses of others.

~God wants you to "Let them go"

**6. Dedicate to be a forgiving person** (*Decide to forgive*)