



FREE FROM UNFORGIVENESS | BE FREE

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

93 Miss Jones → **Who do you need to forgive?** → Mt. 18:21-35

Mt. 18:21-27 → **Forgiveness is difficult.** → Jewish Rabbis=3 // Pete=7 // Jesus = 7x77 = Never hold a grudge.

- ...bc forgiveness is costly. → Forgiveness is releasing debt (betrayal, abuse, lies, gossip,)? → **MERCY**
- **Sin = spiritual debt.** → 10k talents=200k years of labor = **3.48b** → **Spiritual debt** → **The CROSS**
- Jesus sets us **FREE** from our spiritual debt / **SIN.** → **MERCIFUL!** → **Hebrews 8:12**
- **Art Picture:** Small Children walking through an rare Murano Glass Gallery (near Venice, Italy)

Mt. 18:28-35 → **...but Jesus says unforgiveness is more costly.** → In the church...family forgiveness...

- **Unforgiving people...are not free.** → You: replay memory over & over. Gossip. Focused on past, cant live in present. List of offenses. Physically sick. Petty. Depressed. Anxious. Anger. Cognitive dissonance, = spiritual prison & torture
- **NOT FORGIVING SPIRITUALLY HURTS ME!** → ...like swallowing poison and expecting the other person to die.
- **Unforgiveness is sitting in a jail cell for someone else's crime, with the key in your own hand."**

Some forgiven people refuse to forgive. → Forgiveness is about the heart. (vs. 35)

- **Unwilling vs. UNABLE?**
- **UNABLE:** The way we forgive is an indicator of how free we are...if we can't...it means we are not free.
 - Ask God to help you.
 - Pray the Lord's Prayer. → 6:12 and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. → 14
 - Embrace the process. → CS Lewis Quote → MLK Jr Quote
- **UNWILLING:**
 - Think about what God has forgiven you of. Jesus has forgiven us of...what?
 - Think about what your unforgiveness is costing you...your spouse...your children, your church. → Mt. 5:7
- **UNKNOWING** → STORY OF EUNICE & HER DAD. → **Who do you need to forgive?** → **In person?**

→ **Forgiven people forgive people!** → **PRAYER:** Father, help me to forgive!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Have I ever experienced or seen forgiveness in a tangible or profound way that still impacts me today?
2. How does unforgiveness or bitterness negatively impact my walk with God, my emotional state of mind, & my physical body?
3. Do I really more to being unable, unwilling, or unknowing of unforgiveness in my heart toward others?
4. Who do I need to forgive? Do I need to meet with that person in person or is between my heart and God?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me to forgive people because you have forgiven me."

LINKS / RESOURCES:

QUOTES / SONGS:

"Unforgiveness is sitting in a jail cell for someone else's crime, with the key in your own hand."

"Bitterness is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die." - John Ortberg

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"There is no use in talking as if forgiveness were easy. We all know the old joke, 'You've given up smoking once; I've given it up a dozen times.' In the same way I could say of a certain man, 'Have I forgiven him for what he did that day? I've forgiven him more times than I can count.' For we find that the work of forgiveness has to be done over and over again. We forgive, we mortify our resentment; a week later some chain of thought carries us back to the original offense and we discover the old resentment blazing away as if nothing had been done about it at all. We need to forgive our brother seventy times seven not only for 490 offenses but for one offense." - CS Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 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!"

23 "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. 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."

Hebrews 8:12

And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

Matthew 5:7

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 6:9-15

9 Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. 10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today the food we need, 12 and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. 13 And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.