



Silverdale Baptist Church
7 Commands of Christ ~ Forgive from the Heart
Matthew 18:21-35 ~ 05/11-12/2024

Big Idea

We forgive others because God has forgiven us.

Big Questions

What was the main thing about forgiveness that grabbed your heart this week?

What are you going to do with what God has shown you?

Who are you in this story?

Getting Started

Pastor Tony talked about revenge obituaries. Did you find them to be funny or sad?

I realize we never would, but have you been treated in a way that might make you tempted to write a revenge obituary? Can you tell us about it?

Learn

| HAVE SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 18:21-35.

1. The Impossible Debt

How large is the debt?

What is the point Jesus is making?

2. The Just Verdict

How do you feel about the verdict?

Why?

3. A Plea For Mercy

How did the king respond to the 1st servant's plea for mercy?

How did the forgiven man treat the man who owed him comparatively little?

4. Extraordinary Grace

*Shouldn't you also have **had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** (Mt. 18:33)*

Who in your life do you need to show extraordinary grace?

What is Forgiveness? – Cancelling the Debt

| HAVE SOMEONE READ COLOSSIANS 2:13-14.

*And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by **cancelling the record of debt** that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Col 2:13-14)*

In this passage, what is forgiveness?

How To Forgive? – It Flows from Being Forgiven

*And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, **just as God also forgave you in Christ.** (Eph 4:32)*

| HAVE SOMEONE READ EPH 4:32.

What enables a Christ follower to forgive the people who have injured us?

“When you see yourself as a forgiven sinner, you will have greater compassion with other sinners. We forgive out of the overflow of our own forgiveness.”

– Pastor Tony

Why Forgive? – Unforgiveness Leads To A Personal Prison

*His master **handed him over to the jailers to be tortured ...** heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you **forgives** his brother or sister from your heart.” (Mt. 18:34-35)*

Why should we forgive?

Apply

Has God shown you someone you need to forgive?

Why are you hesitant?

***Leader note:** We suggest you close your time by allowing the people in your group to pray the following prayer of forgiveness.*

Heavenly Father,
(Name) _____ has hurt me by _____ and
it made me feel _____.
I now choose to forgive and cancel their debt.
I forgive them for what they have done.
And I release them from what I feel they owe me.
I give them and all my hurt to you, Lord.
I now look to Christ to meet all my needs and heal my hurts.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pray

Father, as we forgive the people who have injured us, would You free us from the bitterness that has held us captive and fill us with the joy of the Holy Spirit? In Jesus' name, we ask, amen.