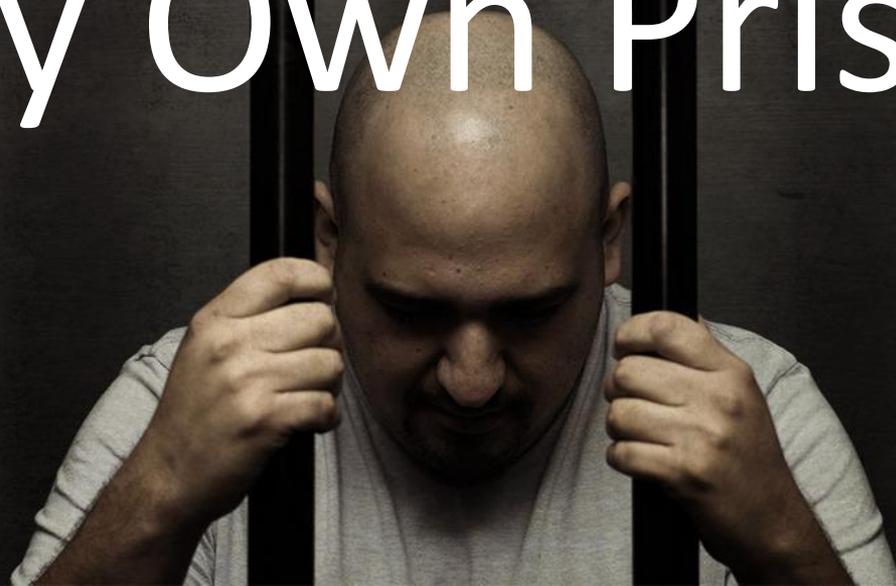


The Pathway to Heaven

My Own Prison



It started with a question

Matthew 18:21

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”



Jesus had an answer and a story

Matthew 18:22

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

I owe a debt I cannot pay

He paid a debt He did not owe



Our reaction to forgiveness reveals our heart

Matthew 18:28

New International Version

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.



The moment of reckoning

Matthew 18:32-34

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³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.



Unless you...

Matthew 18:35

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”



My own prison

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.



The key to freedom

Colossians 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



Ephesians 4:31-32

New International Version

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.



**Just try to forgive as
much as you have
been forgiven**

