

# AN UNFORGIVING HEART

*June 2, 2019*

## I. INTRODUCTION

**Matthew 6:14-15** For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Matthew 6:12** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- *An Unforgiving Heart is one of the greatest barriers to our prayers.*

### **Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

## II. THREE WAYS AN UNFORGIVING HEART IMPRISONS YOUR PRAYERS

### *1. You become too focused on yourself.*

**Matthew 18:28-29** But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’

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

*“Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others.” – Brian Tracy*

**Matthew 5:44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

## ***2. You focus on what others owe you.***

**Matthew 18:30-31** He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

**Colossians 3:13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

## ***3. You forget the One who forgave you first.***

- *You create a prison that hinders your prayers when you don't forgive.*

**Matthew 18:32-35** Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

- *An unforgiving Heart is one of the greatest barriers to our prayers*