

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: The Conversationalist
Message: Evidence of True Faith
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: February 5, 2023

The following are verses from the Bible that help us see the scope of God's mercy and forgiveness toward us. This really needs to be our starting point. Otherwise, we can easily justify our lack of forgiveness on the basis of our own desires. Remember, when you and I forgive we release others from our grip. They still have to deal with God – He is the ultimate and just judge.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.
Luke 23:34 (NLT)

⁶ So, we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:6-8 (NLT)

¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

Who is someone you need to forgive as an act of worship and devotion to Christ?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

TLB – The Living Bible

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: The Conversationalist
Message: Evidence of True Faith
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: February 5, 2023

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.
Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

Forgiveness – offering the gift of freedom from a debt; release from obligation

Mercy – offering the gift of compassion for another’s misery

“Why should I forgive others?”

Forgiving protects my fellowship with God.

¹² ...forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us...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.

Matthew 6:12-15 (NLT)

Forgiving proves my relationship with Christ is real.

For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God’s mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you.

James 2:13 (NLT)

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

Forgiving provides a picture of hope to others.

Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.

Matthew 9:13 (NLT)

“But there is someone I just can’t forgive!”

1. The command isn’t optional.

Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

2. Jesus understands how hard it can be, so rely on Him for help.

...for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.

Philippians 4:13 (TLB)

3. Remember the difference between forgiveness and trust.

- Forgiveness is a gift.
- Trust is earned. (See Matthew 25:14-30)

Personal application:

Father, please help me to forgive _____ as you have forgiven me.