

YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT

Matthew 18:21–35 – Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven! 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. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 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. But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. 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. 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. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 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. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Forgiven people forgive people.

1. Realize what forgiveness isn’t.

- It is not completely forgetting.
- It is not immediately trusting.

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2. Keep the cross before you.

- There is a debt we cannot afford.
- There is a mercy we do not deserve.

3. Make prayer a priority.

- **Romans 12:14, 17–18** – Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

4. Never forget the poison of unforgiveness.

- **Hebrews 12:15** – Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Coming soon:

1. **Good Friday Service:** Start your Easter weekend with a special time of prayer, worship, communion, and celebration this Friday, April 3, at 6:30 pm.
2. **Easter at DRC:** Don't miss the best day of the year! Join us next Sunday as we celebrate the day that changed history. Pray now about who you can invite: 8 am, 9:30 am, or 11 am. No Kids Ministry at 8 am.
3. **DRC 101:** Want to learn more about DRC and/or becoming a member? Sign up today for DRC 101 at the Connect Center or danriverchurch.org/membership: Sunday, April 19, at 9:15 am.
4. **Night of Prayer:** Join us this Thursday, April 2, from 6–7 pm for a prayer walk around the church. As we prepare for all that God is going to do next weekend, may we never forget that nothing of significance happens apart from prayer.