

FORGIVENESS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Let me ask you a couple questions this morning:

Do you think Kingdom privileges and power should ever be mishandled?

How many of you have ever held unforgiveness, bitterness, or anger toward someone who wronged or hurt you?

I can confidently say there are some in this service today who are holding onto unforgiveness toward someone right now

Here's an ah-hah moment for you: forgiveness is a Kingdom privilege and principle

We've all mishandled Kingdom privileges

Matt 18:21-35 NKJV Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' ²⁷ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down ^[a]at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you ^[b]all.' ³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴ And his master

was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother ^[c]his trespasses.”

This parable has a staggering contrast between our forgiven spiritual debt and our petty grievances we hold against others

v. 35 NIV

Matt 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is a powerful principle by which God forgives. This sermon has the potential to free you if you receive it

Let’s look at this parable:

LIMITLESS FORGIVENESS V. 21,22

Jewish tradition taught forgiving someone three times was the limit so Peter was being generous by saying 7 times not a day but in life

Jesus’ response to Peter was no, it’s 70 x 7. Forgiveness isn’t about keeping score but instead extending limitless forgiveness and unmerited grace

Hear me, Jesus commands limitless forgiveness not just 490 times but when you feel angry about one hurt or one sin, forgive again!

OUR EXTRAORDINARY DEBT V. 23-27

The king was settling debts, he had one servant who owed him 10,000 talents

To put this in perspective, during this Bible time, one talent was the greatest denomination of currency

One talent was roughly 20 years of a laborer’s daily wages, so 10,000 talents was an impossible debt, in today’s economy it would be equivalent to billions of dollars

Church, this represents our insurmountable sin debt to our Holy God

The master showed mercy and pity to the servant and forgave his entire and life-ruining debt – it was completely canceled! Stamped Paid In Full!

OUR UNFORGIVENESS IS PETTY V. 28-30

When we think about all our master forgave us, its hypocrisy. His servant only owed him 100 denarii – about a day's wage – so he owed him roughly 100 days of work

It was petty considering the debt he was just forgiven – this is a total lack of grace

He failed to extend the same mercy that he had just received. He demanded full payment.

How many times is that our very reaction?

UNFORGIVENESS BLOCKS ALL GOD HAS FOR US V. 31-35

We see the king's anger was boiling when he heard the servant refused to forgive others.

The servant didn't really understand the extravagant gift of grace he had been given

Jesus ends this parable like this: v. 35

Here's His warning – when we're unmerciful to others and refuse to forgive them, you actually hurt yourself

How? Your unforgiveness blocks the flow of God's peace, purpose, and forgiveness toward us

Eph 4:30-32 NIV And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, ^[a]clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Grace is not math, its mercy! That's powerful!

This means I absorb voluntarily the emotional and spiritual cost of the offense against me rather than making the other person pay for it!

If you have a problem today forgiving someone, look to the cross and you will see the massive size debt God canceled for you

****Read commentary in Bible**

Hear me today, this will free you: forgiveness is more than words we say, it's actually intentionally releasing the offender of their debt they owe also!

Here's our instruction – I am to forgive others the same way my Father forgives me

Forgiveness is non-negotiable

The Kingdom principle to follow: practice forgiveness daily