

Series: Teach Us To Pray
Sermon: Forgive Us Our Sins

1. What Forgiveness Is (and Is Not)

- **What It Is NOT:** Forgiveness is not condoning the evil act, forgetting what happened, erasing the past, automatic reconciliation, requiring an apology/ consent, or forfeiting legal or personal justice.
- **What It IS:** Releasing your right to get even by handing the person over to God.
- Holding onto resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. Refusing to forgive turns you into a prisoner of your own trauma, while forgiving sets *you* free rather than changing the perpetrator.

2. Relentless Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21–22 & Genesis 4)

- When Peter asked if forgiving seven times was generous, Jesus responded with "seventy-seven times" (or 70 x 7).
- This was a direct call-back to Lamech (Genesis 4:24), a descendant of Cain who bragged about seeking relentless 77-fold vengeance for any slight.
- Jesus turns Lamech's story upside down: believers are called to pursue forgiveness with the exact same relentless passion that sinful humanity uses to pursue revenge.

3. Forgiveness Has a Source (The Channel vs. The Reservoir)

- The Sea of Galilee receives water from the Jordan River and passes it on, teeming with life. The Dead Sea hoards every drop it gets, resulting in total stagnation and death.
- *"Forgiven people forgive people."* We are meant to be channels for God's grace, not reservoirs that hoard it.
- To extend forgiveness when hurt is severe, we must continually look back to the cross and meditate on the inexcusable sins God has forgiven in us.

4. Forgiveness is Beyond Human Strength

- Forgiveness is an ongoing daily practice and process, not a simple one-time emotion.
- As illustrated by Corrie ten Boom confronting her former concentration camp guard, human strength alone is often insufficient to forgive deep trauma.
- When we lack the capacity to forgive, we must pray for God to be the source and extend His forgiveness through us (*"Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give Your forgiveness"*).

Notes: