

# The Battle of Forgiveness (Pastor Chuck Atherton)

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## *Who's In Your Dungeon?*

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

*Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

*And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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. The servant therefore fell down before him saying, 'Master, have patience with me and I will pay you all.'*

*Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released to him, and forgave him the debt. 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!'*

*So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 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.*

*Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should*

*pay all that was due to him."*

*"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*

## Several things are necessary when it comes to **FORGIVING THOSE WHO HAVE HURT US:**

- We base our forgiveness on what God has done FOR us, rather than on what the person has done TO us.

The first principle of forgiveness is... *"I cannot give away something I haven't first received."*

- We must let God HEAL our PAST wounds.

Unforgiveness means we desire to hurt the people who have wounded us. God will only heal our wounds when we stop INFLICTING PAIN upon the one who hurt us.

- We need to feel COMPASSION for the person who hurt us.

"Hurting people hurt other people."

Many people are BLIND to the injury they have inflicted. We must pray for the Father to forgive them for what they have done.

- We choose to PAY OFF the debt the person owes us.

People owe different kinds of debts. To forgive them we must quit expecting them to repay their debts to us. We must make a deliberate decision to pay off the debt OURSELVES and NEVER ask them to REPAY it.

- We stop REPLAYING the hurt on the SCREEN of our minds.

Our own unforgiveness causes the pain to be multiplied much worse than the original wounding.

When we forgive, we CHOOSE to stop RECALLING the past.

- We must RELEASE the person from our PRISON.

Unforgiveness will keep us chained to whomever we don't forgive.

## **Releasing Your Prisoners:**

1. Make a list of the people in the dungeon of your soul.
2. Picture in your mind Jesus dying on the cross for the sins those people have committed which have hurt you so deeply. Since Jesus died for those sins, we must let go of them as well.
3. Individually forgive and release each person out of your dungeon. Declare out loud each person's name and announce that you are setting them free.
4. Destroy the mental video of a time someone hurt you so that you can't replay it. Then, thank Jesus (out loud) for setting you free from unforgiveness.