

Kingdom Identity - Forgive

A disciple of Jesus Christ forgives others out of gratitude for how much God has forgiven us.



The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

Matthew 18:21-35

January 12, 2020

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants."²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'³³ "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

FIRST THOUGHTS

Last week we looked at love as the defining characteristic of a disciple of Jesus. We saw how Jesus's love for Peter led to forgiveness. This week we will continue to talk about forgiveness.

- Who do you have the hardest time apologizing to? Why?
- How do you know an apology is sincere?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

> Have a volunteer read Matthew 18:21-35

- What do you think Peter expected Jesus to say when he asked if someone should forgive a brother seven times (v. 21)?
- Read vv. 24 - 26 again. Why do you think the servant showed such humility before the king in the moment?
- If you were the king, what would your response have been? What factors would have influenced your decision?

"And out of pity for him, the master of the servant released the servant and forgave him the debt" (Matthew 18:27). The king did three things before forgiving the debt. He: identifies with him, releases him, and forgives him.

- Which of the three would have been most difficult for you to do if you had been the king? Why?
- How did the king, who represents God in this parable, answer (v. 27)? What does the king's response reveal about the king's character?
- The first servant owes the equivalent of 6 billion dollars, but refuses to forgive 12,000 dollars. How could the first servant be so blind as to the difference between what the king had forgiven him and his lack of forgiveness towards the second servant?

- What do you think keeps us from having a heart full of mercy and compassion?
- Do you think we harbor a sense of entitlement? Does God "owe" us His forgiveness? Explain.
- In what ways does this parable depict the Gospel?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

If you have unforgiveness in your life, you are still being controlled by the person you refuse to forgive. The more unforgiveness you have, the tighter that person's hold is on you. In your mind's eye, envision the moment when someone sinned against you in such a way that forgiving him or her has seemed impossible. Describe what you hope it would feel like on the other side of forgiving that person.

Forgiveness is when you look at someone and fully and confidently release his or her debt. What debt does someone owe you that you need to forgive?

What will your next step be to forgive the person (or people) you just mentioned?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Next week we will look at what it means to abide in Christ. What does that word mean to you?
- Read John 15:1-17. These are Jesus' words to his disciples on the night before he was crucified. He was telling them what to expect after he was gone. How do we abide in him when we don't have his physical presence we can see?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

12th – Genesis 29-30; Luke 12 | **13th** – Genesis 31-33; Luke 13 | **14th** – Genesis 34-36; Luke 14 | **15th** – Genesis 37-38; Psalm 7; Luke 15 | **16th** – Genesis 39-41; Luke 16 | **17th** – Genesis 42-43; Psalm 5; Luke 17 | **18th** – Genesis 44-46; Luke 18

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH
FOR THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

A GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY
THAT AIMS TO KNOW GOD TOGETHER
AND BE CHANGED BY HIM IN A WAY
THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.