

FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

LUKE 17:1-6

Jesus taught that because it's impossible to go through life without being offended, our heart needs protected from becoming bitter and unforgiving. Jesus knew that unforgiveness gives place to demonic activity and divine judgment. So He taught His Disciples to offer unlimited forgiveness. **MATTHEW 18:21-22**

- A woman received a creative miracle after forgiving someone.

MATTHEW 18:23-35

1. The King represents God.
2. The indebted servant represents a man's inability to pay his sin debt.
3. The indebted fellow's servant represents a brother who owes another brother a sin debt.
4. The debts compared in today's money
 - A. 10,000 talents = \$7 billion dollars.
 - B. 100 pence = 4 month salary or \$11,700.00
 - C. \$11,700.00 X 3 = \$35,100.00 a year.
 - D. To pay back \$7 billion would take 200,000 years.
5. The King's forgiveness represents God's compassion and grace.
 - A. **EPHESIANS 2:8-9** – His sin debt was cancelled not earned.
 - B. **EPHESIANS 1:7** – Jesus paid our sin debt for us.
 - C. **ACTS 13:38-39** – Keeping the law was impossible.
6. The forgiven servant's refusal to forgive brought judgment.
 - A. **MATTHEW 7:1-2 (NLT)** – He received his own judgment.
 - B. David, judged himself when he pronounced judgment on a thief.
 - C. People are tormented who don't forgive. **HEBREWS 12:14-15 (ESV)**
7. Forgiveness is contingent upon forgiving others.
 - A. **MATTHEW 6:14-15 (NLT)**
 - B. **COLOSSIANS 3:13 (NLT)**
8. Forgiveness must come from the heart.
 - A. **MATTHEW 18:35** – The unmerciful servant lacked heart. He failed to see the enormity of his debt. He was blind to the fact that 2000 lifetimes would not be sufficient to repay his debt. He had no compassion toward his fellow servant.
 - B. He failed to realize that those who have been forgiven must forgive. The mercy he obtained, he denied to another.

WHO DO WE FORGIVE

1. Ourselves.
 - A. God has forgiven us. **PSALMS 103:12**
 - B. Don't beat yourself up with guilt. **ROMANS 8:1-2, 1 JOHN 3:18-21**
2. Those who ask us to.
 - A. **LUKE 17:3-4**
3. Those who don't ask us to.
 - A. **LUKE 23:34, ACTS 7:60**
4. God.
 - A. Many are bitter toward God and blame Him for their troubles. **JAMES 1:12-16**
 - B. A woman blamed God for her child's death, quoting **1 CORINTHIANS 10:13**. She became bitter and walked away from her faith.

CONCLUSION: It's in our own best interest to forgive. We receive the most benefit, not the one we forgive. By forgiving, we close the door to satanic activity, God's judgment, and open the door to God's miraculous power.