

February 12, 2017
Matthew 18:21-35

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF FORGIVENESS

I. INTRODUCTION:

Matt. 18:21-35 *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"' (vs. 21)*

"Jesus answered ` . . . Not seven times but 77 times!"
(vs 22)

II. WHY I MUST LEARN TO FORGIVE

1. Because _____

"The servant's master took pity on him, and canceled the debt and let him go." (vs.27)

"There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus."

The servant's reaction (vs. 28-30):

* When we feel _____ we tend to be unforgiving!

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." (Eph. 4:32)

Key: Recognize . . .

2. Because _____

"Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servants just as I had on you? In anger his master turned him over to the jailer to be tortured. . ." (vs. 33-34)

"Some men stay happy until the day they die . . . others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts."

3. Because _____

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brothers from your heart." (vs. 35)

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Matt 5:7

Do I need to forgive anyone?

- * The blame test.
- * The bitterness test.
- * The behavior test.

Two options for dealing with my hurts:

I can either _____ them or _____ them!

POINTSTO PONDER
Week Of February 12th to 18th
Matthew 18:21-35

Open It:

1. *What makes forgiveness difficult?
2. What acts of mercy have you seen or heard about recently?
3. What are some situations others have faced that you would find difficult to forgive?

Explore It:

4. What question did Peter ask Jesus? (18:21)
5. What surprising answer did Jesus give Peter? (18:22)
6. How did Jesus illustrate His answer to Peter's question? (18:23)
7. To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? (18:23)
8. In the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, what did the king want to do? (18:23)
9. How was the king prepared to get the large amount of money owed him by a particular servant? (18:24-25)
10. What did the indebted servant do? (18:26)
11. How did the king graciously respond to the indebted servant's desperate plea? (18:27)
12. What did the servant go do after his debt was cancelled? (18:28)
13. How did the second servant respond to the demand for payment? (18:29)

14. What effect did the second servant's pleas have on the first servant? (18:30)
15. *Who watched with dismay as the first servant refused to have mercy on the second? Why? (18:31)
16. How did the onlookers respond when they saw the first servant throw the second in jail? (18:31)
17. *How did the king react to the news he heard? (18:32-34)
18. *How did Jesus apply this parable to His followers? (18:35)

Get It:

19. How likely are we to forgive someone once, twice, or even three times?
20. How likely are people to forgive someone beyond three times?
21. How are we to interpret Jesus' answer, "seventy-seven times"?
22. Why is an unforgiving spirit so deadly?
23. *In what ways has God shown mercy in forgiving our sins?
24. *If God is so willing to forgive us, why are we sometimes unwilling to forgive others?
25. How do we sometimes forgive with strings attached?
26. What should we do if we don't feel like forgiving others?
27. How is it possible for us to forget the wrongs others have done to us?

Apply It:

28. What individual(s) do you need to "release from their debts" today?
29. *What are some practical ways you can show mercy today to someone who has wronged you?