

The Model Church: Forgiveness - Part 1

Matthew 18:21-35

MAIN IDEA: Forgiveness is unlimited, not cheap, undeserved, complete, and mandatory for a Christian.

Our sin nature, our disease, wants to “even the score” when we’ve been wronged. But forgiving others isn’t based on them or our situation. It’s based on our sovereign God and what it cost Him to forgive us.

1. The king was determined to sell the servant and his family to pay the debt. What did the king do instead? Why do you think he made that decision?
2. Why did the king expect the servant to be merciful towards his fellow servant who owed 100 denarii?
3. Why do you think the servant thought it was his right to demand the money owed to him?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

How does the servant who owed today’s equivalent of \$10 billion compare to your debt of sin before God?

Why do you think God forgave you, knowing what it would cost Him? Consider 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If God doesn’t keep a record of your wrongs (Isaiah 43:25, Daniel 9:9, Micah 7:18-19), why do you think you still hold on to them; either against others or yourself?

Why is it not possible to love like Christ (John 13:34-35) while holding on to unforgiveness?

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? What’s stopping you from offering

forgiveness? Consider Ephesians 4:30-32 and Colossians 3:12-13

Memorize one of the verses in this week's study as you take steps in becoming like Christ by freely offering forgiveness.

Pray -

- God would reveal any unforgiveness in your heart so that you may ask for forgiveness knowing He is faithful to forgive and will cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)
- Thanksgiving to God and Jesus Christ for the undeserved gift of salvation and forgiveness
- For God to make your heart like His so that you love others like He does
- The Holy Spirit would empower you to freely offer forgiveness
- For those who have wronged or hurt you, just as Christ says to do (Matthew 5:43-44)

REPRODUCE

Whom do you need to forgive? Are you able to approach him or her this week to offer forgiveness and take steps towards reconciliation? If not, consider writing a letter to that person and share it with a trusted brother or sister in Christ. When sharing, be mindful of how you share your story so as to maintain honor and respect for the person you've forgiven.

Do you see a need for forgiveness in the relationship of one or more people close to you? Encourage them to forgive and reconcile. If you share your experience, again, be mindful of maintaining unity for all persons involved.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Matthew 6:15
- Romans 3:23-26
- Psalm 103:12
- Matthew 18:21-35
- Psalm 103:10

Additional verses from the study:

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
- Isaiah 43:25
- Daniel 9:9
- Micah 7:18-19
- John 13:34-35
- Ephesians 4:30-32
- Colossians 3:12-13
- 1 John 1:9
- Matthew 5:43-44