

The Parables
Hidden
in Plain Sight

SUNDAY, August 2, 2026 | PART 6 - Difficulty of Forgiveness |
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“Then Peter came up and said to him, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” -Matthew 18:21-22

Jesus redefines forgiveness from legality to a lifestyle.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:23-35

The Kingdom of Heaven Compared:

1. Contrasting _____
2. Contrasting _____
3. Contrasting _____

Jesus Outlines Five Realities of Forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness is _____.

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.” -Hebrews 12:15

Action: Recognize the areas where you are having difficulty in forgiveness.

2. Forgiveness is _____.

*“As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”
-Psalm 103:12*

“You cannot sin so much as God can forgive. If it comes to a pitched battle between sin and grace, you shall not be so bad as God shall be good. I will prove it to you. You can only sin as a man, but God can forgive as a God. You sin as a finite creature, but the Lord forgives as the infinite creator.” -Charles Spurgeon

Action: Reflect upon the measure of grace extended to you.

3. Forgiveness is _____.

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

-Colossians 3:12-13

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” -CS Lewis

Action: Release the demand for justice.

4. Forgiveness leads _____.

“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” -Mark 11:25

“Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred.” -Corrie Ten Boom

Forgiveness doesn't change the past, but it enlarges the future.

Action: Realize the ways you are affected by the imprisonment of unforgiveness.

5. Forgiveness _____.

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” -Matthew 5:23-24

Action: Reach out for forgiveness.

“Nothing in the Christian life is more important than forgiveness – our forgiveness of others and God's forgiveness of us.” -John MacArthur