

JESUS...WHAT'S THE STORY?

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Part 2

Matthew 18:21-35

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Bottom Line:

Forgiving others is a vital characteristic of a disciple of Christ who truly understands and is impacted by the awesome forgiveness that God has demonstrated to us.

1. Forgiving others is not about "score" keeping.

Matthew 18:21-22

2. Forgiving others flows out of God's forgiveness of you.

Matthew 18:23-33

Forgiveness = Acting with compassion and love towards another person who has wronged you because of the love, mercy and compassion that you have received from God.

A. What Forgiveness Is Not:

- 1) *Forgetting what happened.*
- 2) *Condoning the wrong.*
- 3) *Avoiding future changes.*
- 4) *Removing all consequences.*

B. What Forgiveness Is:

- 1) *Releasing your "right" to get even.*
- 2) *Reacting to evil with good.*
- 3) *Repeating the process as long as necessary.*
- 4) *Remembering how much the Lord has forgiven you.*

3. Forgiving others pleases God and _____ you. Matthew 18:34-35

Conclusion: On Track to Forgive:

- A. _____ that the Lord would give you a heart of forgiveness like His.

- B. Be teachable to change any ways in which you might offend others. Romans 2:1-5

- C. _____ common offenses that people encounter and walk through how you will respond.

- D. Don't enlarge problems & offenses to be more than they are.

- E. Choose to _____ in forgiveness toward others. (& receive it)

- F. Pray for wisdom as you respond in a godly way, regardless of the disappointing actions of others.

- G. Be prepared to _____ whatever part in this problem/offense that you have.

- H. If necessary, share your progress in difficult struggles with one other trusted Christian friend.

- I. Be motivated throughout the process by your _____ for Christ and desire to bring honor to Him.

