

## GOD'S KINGDOM, PART 12

### The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

#### Matthew 18:21-35

### Forgiving From My Heart

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but *\*seventy-seven times.* Matthew 18:21-22 NIV *\*seventy times seven*

### I Must Forgive From My Heart...

#### 1. Because my account will be settled someday.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. Matthew 18:23 NIV

#### 2. Because I have a debt I could never repay.

<sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand [talents] bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. Matthew 18:24-27 NIV

#### 3. Because in the way I forgive I will be forgiven.

<sup>28</sup> "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred [denarii] silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' <sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

Matthew 18:28-30 NIV See Matthew 6:9-15, 7:1-5 & 2 Cor. 7:10.

#### 4. Because God has had mercy on me.

<sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.' <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

Matthew 18:31-33 NIV

#### 5. Because I will be tormented unless I forgive.

<sup>34</sup> And his master, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he would repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." Matthew 18:34-35 NASB/NIV

#### Do I need forgiveness or to forgive anyone?

Ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal if there is any anxious, hurtful or offensive way in you (Psalm 139:23-24).

\* **The blame test.** Do I blame anybody for my unhappiness?

Who am I blaming? This indicates resentment.

\* **The bitterness test.** Do I think anyone owes me?

Who am I keeping score with? This indicates bitterness.

\* **The behavior test.** Do I get angry at others?

Who am I angry toward? This indicates unforgiveness from the heart.

If He brings something or someone to your mind (either someone you have offended or someone who has hurt you), don't wait until you *feel* like forgiving.

**Pray:** And forgive my debts, as I forgiven my debtors.

Heavenly Father, I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_\_ from my heart

[name the person]

for \_\_\_\_\_. I release \_\_\_\_\_ and

[what he/she did or neglected to do]                      [name the person]

cancel all his/her debt. I will not hold anything against him/her. Lord, forgive me for harboring resentment and having unforgiveness. I now ask, God, for you to bless \_\_\_\_\_ and reveal to him/her how

[name the person]

much you love him/her, as he/she is created in Your image.

**If I have offended someone, I must go to them and ask for their**

**forgiveness:** "Therefore, if...your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24 NIV