



SEMESTER 4 - WEEK 5

FORGIVENESS [D1, D2, D3]

Commands to forgive:

Matthew 6:9-15

Mark 11:25-26

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness defined:

“To forgive someone means to release from liability to suffer punishment or penalty. Aphemi, a Greek word that is often translated as “forgive” means to let go, release or remit. It often refers to debts that have been paid or canceled in full (Mt 6:12, 18:27, 32). Charizomai, another word for “forgive” means to bestow favor freely or unconditionally. This word shows that forgiveness is undeserved and cannot be earned”. Ken Sande

“If I have been injured by another, let me think to myself, how much better to be the sufferer than the wrongdoer”.
R.C. Chapman

Matthew 18:21-35

Luke 17:3-4

Forgiveness is:

- “Dying to self” by releasing an offender from your bitterness, wrath and/or judgment (which he may deserve).
- Giving the offender mercy as Christ gives you mercy, instead of the wrath you deserve.
- Changing your attitude toward the offender when you realize how great God’s love and forgiveness is toward you, an offender.

Forgiveness is:

- A decision of the will.
- Not based on your feelings.
- A three-fold commitment to God and the offender:
 - “I will not bring up the transgression to the offender” (unless admonishment is needed)
 - “I will not bring up the transgression to others” (by gossiping or “venting”)
 - “I will not dwell on the transgression myself” (by having a pity-party)

Remember:

God has ordained this situation.

To thank God for this difficulty.

To forgive the offender, not verbally, but in prayer.

To ask, “How can I obey God in this situation?”

To ask, “What is God trying to teach me?”



Questions to ask to determine if I need to go:

Is it dishonoring God?

Is it damaging your relationship?

Is it hurting others?

Is it hurting the offender?

Is this something I can overlook?

Is this a preference or a sin?

Is this a pattern or is it a one time thing?

[Proverbs 27:6; Matthew 7:3-5; Galatians 6:1-2]

Detecting unforgiveness:

- Struggling with disobedience to God without gaining consistency in your spiritual growth
- Having a persistent anger problem, outward or inward
- Blaming others for your problems
- Being moody or frequently depressed
- Being very superficial in relationships
- Withdrawing emotionally or physically from others
- Having negative, ungrateful attitudes toward God, situations and others
- Gossiping and/or “venting” to others about the offender(s)
- Sensing God’s presence is far from you; fellowship with God is hindered
- Dwelling on self-pity; feeling victimized
- Excusing your sinful responses toward others’ offenses
- Retreating into fantasy to cover the painful realities of others’ offenses



MINISTRY PASSAGES

DISCIPLINE 1, 2, 3 [THE HEART, THE HOME, MINISTRY]

Matthew 18:21-35

- 21 *Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*
- 22 *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*
- 23 *"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.*
- 24 *"When he had begun to settle [them,] one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.*
- 25 *"But since he did not have [the means] to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.*
- 26 *"So the slave fell [to the ground] and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'*
- 27 *"And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.*
- 28 *"But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and [began] to choke [him,] saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'*
- 29 *"So his fellow slave fell [to the ground] and [began] to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'*
- 30 *"But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.*
- 31 *"So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.*
- 32 *"Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.*
- 33 *'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'*
- 34 *"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.*
- 35 *"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."*



Mark 11:25-26

25 *"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.*

26 *["But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."]*

Ephesians 4:32

32 *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Ephesians 3:13

13 *bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

RESOURCES

Called To Obedience Ministries

Pursuing Peace Dr. Robert D. Jones

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Matthew 16-23

The Peacemaker Ken Sande



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QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. What was helpful in this lesson?

2. What other questions do you have?

3. If you are in a situation where you are having difficulty forgiving, what will you do to change?

