

13th July 2025

Outrageous Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35
Psalm 51



Introduction:

Our Post Modern culture is not big on forgiveness. We swim against a cultural current when we chose to forgive like Jesus.

Peter's Question v21-22:

Peter was showing signs of growth in his understanding of forgiveness. Jesus sees a teaching moment and pushed the question beyond the human (7x) into the Divine (70x7). We need God's help to forgive like this.

The Unforgiving Servant v23-27:

Jesus use of a parable emphasises the point of God's grace. The servant is shown unmerited favour for a debt he could never pay.

The Price of Unforgiveness v28-35:

The price of unforgiveness is always too high. We will be wounded and offended in life but holding on to those injuries hurts us more. Without forgiveness those wrongs we suffered become a life sentence.

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-11 Jesus teaches early on in this that forgiveness is a gift we receive with the expectation we will pass it on.

Conclusion:

It is in our best interest to forgive. When I let go of my hurt, my life gets better. Loving myself like my neighbour requires me to forgive, it is one of the keys to a life of contentment and peace.

Questions for reflection and discussion in Growth Groups:

1. How do we respond as disciples of Jesus to "cancel culture"?
2. How do we apply Jesus teaching to forgive 70x7 times, what does this look like in everyday life?
3. The unforgiving servant was given a life sentence for his hardness of heart. What do we think this means for us if we chose to withhold forgiveness? (See also Matt 6:12)
4. When we have chosen to forgive what difference has it made in our own lives?