

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



# The Freedom of Forgiveness



Matthew 18:21-35

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## 1. The Parable of Forgiveness

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## A. The Problem (v. 21)

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?”

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## A. The Problem (v. 21)

Matthew chapter 18 reveals  
much about God's heart for  
restoration and reconciliation.



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## A. The Problem (v. 21)

Many first century Rabbis taught that you were only required to forgive up to three times.

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## B. The Point (v. 22)

Jesus said to him,  
“I do not say to you seven times,  
but seventy-seven times.”

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## B. The Point (v. 22)

The ESV renders this  
“seventy-seven times”  
whereas other translations render  
this “seventy times seven.”



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## B. The Point (v. 22)

Jesus' point is that  
He is calling us to  
limitless forgiveness.

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## C. The Parable (v. 23-24)

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents...”

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## C. The Parable (v. 23-24)

10,000 talents is likely the  
equivalent of \$900 Billion  
when converted to our currency.

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## C. The Parable (v. 23-24)



amazon

Jeff Bezos is worth  
\$105 Billion for  
comparison.



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## D. The Payment (v. 25)

And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.



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## D. The Payment (v. 25)

This servant was about to lose 3 things:

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## D. The Payment (v. 25)

This servant was about to lose 3 things:

1. His freedom

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## D. The Payment (v. 25)

This servant was about to lose 3 things:

1. His freedom
2. His family

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## D. The Payment (v. 25)

This servant was about to lose 3 things:

1. His freedom
2. His family
3. His fortune

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## E. The Petition (v. 26)

So the servant fell on his knees,  
imploring him, 'Have patience with  
me, and I will pay you everything.'



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## E. The Petition (v. 26)

In reality, was there any way  
he could pay this debt?

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## E. The Petition (v. 26)

In reality, was there any way  
he could pay this debt?

NO WAY!

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## F. The Pardon (v. 27)

And out of pity for him,  
the master of that servant released  
him and forgave him the debt.

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## F. The Pardon (v. 27)

When this servant was forgiven by  
the King, this was his moment of  
salvation.

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## F. The Pardon (v. 27)

What feeling would you have  
if you had just been forgiven  
a \$900 Billion debt?



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## G. The Product (v. 28)

But when that same servant went out,  
he found one of his fellow servants  
who owed him a hundred denarii,  
and seizing him, he began to choke him,  
saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

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## G. The Product (v. 28)

The amount this man owed  
was about three months wages  
or around \$13,000

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## H. The Plea (v. 29)

So his fellow servant fell down  
and pleaded with him,  
'Have patience with me,  
and I will pay you.'

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## H. The Plea (v. 29)

This should have sparked his memory because these were literally the exact words he used.

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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

He refused and went and  
put him in prison until  
he should pay the debt.



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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

At least 3 possible reasons for this debt:

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

At least 3 possible reasons for this debt:

1. This may have been a single large sum.

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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

At least 3 possible reasons for this debt:

1. This may have been a single large sum.
2. It's possible this was a much smaller amount and over time interest had accrued.

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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

At least 3 possible reasons for this debt:

1. This may have been a single large sum.
2. It's possible this was a much smaller amount and over time interest had accrued.
3. It's possible this was the sum of many small withdrawals that had been made.

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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

What is the #1 topic  
couples argue over?



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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

What is the #1 topic  
couples argue over?

Finances

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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

Offenses that build over time

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## 1. The Prison (v. 30)

Sometimes all these little offenses  
can build a fence between you.

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## J. The Punishment (v. 31-33)

When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

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## J. The Punishment (v. 31-33)

Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'



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## J. The Punishment (v. 31-33)

The wicked servant's biggest problem was that he didn't properly understand the immensity of the debt he owed.

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## J. The Punishment (v. 31-33)

Grace is being given  
what we don't deserve.

Mercy is not receiving  
what we do deserve.

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## K. The Penalty (v. 34)

And in anger his master delivered him  
to the jailers, until he should  
pay all his debt.

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## K. The Penalty (v. 34)

The word translated “jailers” here could also be translated “torturers” or “tormentors.”

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## L. The Promise (v. 35)

**“So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”**



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## L. The Promise (v. 35)

Our unforgiveness can cause a loss  
of intimacy and communion  
with the Father.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #1: Realize the depth of our sin and the height of God's mercy

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #2: Evaluate the pain  
that was caused.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #3: Understand what  
Biblical forgiveness is.



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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #3: Biblical forgiveness:

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

### Step #3: Biblical forgiveness:

1) I will not bring this offense up to you again.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

### Step #3: Biblical forgiveness:

- 1) I will not bring this offense up to you again.
- 2) I will not bring this offense up to anyone else.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

### Step #3: Biblical forgiveness:

- 1) I will not bring this offense up to you again.
- 2) I will not bring this offense up to anyone else.
- 3) I will not bring this offense up to myself again.



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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Biblical forgiveness is saying,  
“I choose to release you from  
the obligation that occurred  
when you injured me.”



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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #4: Understand what  
Biblical forgiveness is NOT.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #4: Biblical forgiveness is NOT:

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #4: Biblical forgiveness is NOT:

1) Biblical forgiveness is NOT enabling.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #4: Biblical forgiveness is NOT:

- 1) Biblical forgiveness is NOT enabling.
- 2) Biblical forgiveness is NOT rescuing.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #4: Biblical forgiveness is NOT:

- 1) Biblical forgiveness is NOT enabling.
- 2) Biblical forgiveness is NOT rescuing.
- 3) Biblical forgiveness is NOT risking.



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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #5: Realize that we have  
an obligation to forgive.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #6: Realize the consequences  
of unforgiveness.

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## II. The Plan of Forgiveness

Step #7: Realize that when we forgive  
we exemplify Christ.

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## III. The Process of Forgiveness

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## III. The Process of Forgiveness

Write down the:



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## III. The Process of Forgiveness

Write down the:

1) Person

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## III. The Process of Forgiveness

Write down the:

- 1) Person
- 2) Pain

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## III. The Process of Forgiveness

Write down the:

1) Person

2) Pain

3) Plan

# The Freedom of Forgiveness



## Forgiveness Commitment:

“By the grace of God, I commit to not bring this offense up to you, to others, or to myself again. I choose to release you from the obligation that resulted when you injured me.”

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**Our Father, which art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done on earth  
As it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil**

**For Thine is the Kingdom  
And the power, and the glory  
For ever and ever**

**Amen**

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