



October 1, 2023
Worship Service
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RELATIONSHIPS

Ruined by Sin, Restored by Grace
Lesson Four • Matthew 18:21-35
Ruined by a Grudge

Relationships Ruined and Restored

Relationships are ruined when you HOLD a grudge, but are restored when you LET GO of your grudge through forgiveness.

Gotta Grudge?

Let go of your grudge by choosing FORGIVENESS over bitterness.

“and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” Matthew 6:12

*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
Matthew 6:14-15*

Peter & Jesus on Forgiveness

1. Peter’s Position Is LIMITED Forgiveness!

Peter’s Question

“Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as SEVEN times?” (v.21)

2. Jesus’ Position Is UNLIMITED Forgiveness!

Jesus’ Answer

“I tell you, not as many as seven, but SEVENTY times seven.” (v. 22)

The Parable: Why Choose Forgiveness Over Bitterness?

1. Choose Forgiveness Because GOD Has Forgiven Me!

Two Take-Aways

- In Christ, we have RECEIVED gracious and merciful forgiveness from God (v. 23-27).
- As Christ-followers, we EXTEND gracious and merciful forgiveness to others (v. 28-30).

2. Choose Forgiveness Because UNFORGIVENESS Is Too Costly!

Two Consequences

- Unforgiveness DESTROYS relationships (v. 28-30).
- Unforgiveness delivers PAINFUL consequences on my life (v. 32-35).

Defining Mark of Receiving God’s Forgiveness

Forgiven people FORGIVE!

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you Colossians 3:13

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Who do you need to forgive? Three Tests

- Blame Test: Are you blaming someone for your unhappiness and hurt in life?
- Bitterness Test: Are you keeping score against someone who hurt you?
- Behavior Test: Are you acting differently because of resentment?

Like the merciful king, tell the one who hurt you, *“I choose to release you from the pain that resulted when you injured me. You don’t owe me anything. I forgive you.”*