

How to Be Free

Get Out of God's Chair - Day 2

I Don't Have The Right to Hold Unforgiveness.

Have you ever been forgiven for something big? Maybe it was money that you owed to a friend or family member, and instead of having you pay it back they told you to consider the money a gift! Or, maybe you hurt someone with your actions or words, and instead of ending the relationship, they chose to show mercy – allowing the relationship to continue! Whatever the debt, no matter how big or how small, being forgiven feels like a breath of fresh air!

Now, imagine feeling that huge relief of being forgiven something major – and then turning around and denying the same forgiveness to someone else for something small! This would be crazy...right? Well, Jesus sure thought so.

In *Matthew 18:21-35 (TPT)*, Peter comes to him and asks the question “*Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?*” Jesus quickly responds, and says, “*No, not seven times...but seventy times seven!*” Peter understands that Jesus is saying our forgiveness for others should be limitless– there’s no number attached to how many times we are obligated to forgive. Jesus knew this concept would seem strange to his followers, so he clarified by telling a story of a man who owed an un-payable, massive debt to the king. When the king shows mercy and forgives the entire debt, the man is overjoyed! But, then the man does something unexpected...he turns around and refuses to forgive the very small, and very payable debt of another man. When the king learns of this he is outraged, and has the man thrown into prison until the entire debt can be paid.

Jesus makes the point clear, “In this same way, my heavenly Father will deal with any of you if you do not release forgiveness from your heart toward your fellow believer.” The bottom line is this – because our massive and unpayable debt has been forgiven through Jesus, we don’t have the right to withhold forgiveness!

As you are recognizing areas where you have held onto unforgiveness, you can pray the following – “Jesus, I realize I don’t have the right to hold unforgiveness because you have forgiven me! I choose to forgive, release, and bless this person for the pain they have caused me. Thank you that I don’t have to carry the weight of unforgiveness!