

The Freedom To Forgive

Matthew 18: 21-35

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Read Matthew 18:21-35, look for things that are repeated or emphasized. How would you summarize this parable?

What do the following verses tell us of God's forgiveness?

1 John 1:9

Psalms 103:12

Isaiah 1:18

In light of your own sin, how do you view God's Grace? How *amazing* is it...

What is the difference between God's grace and His mercy?

Often holiness is an attribute of God we want to ignore, we just want to talk about His love, grace and mercy. But, without understanding His holiness it makes his love, grace and mercy cheap. The heinousness of our sin is not based on the wickedness of our actions but the holiness of our God. Explore God's word and share something you discover about the holiness of God.

Look again at verses 28-35 and see yourself. Why is it that we are not quick to forgive others?

When you see your own sin in light of God's holiness and realize that God freely forgives when we repent, you understand the magnitude of your own forgiveness. How have you experienced God's forgiveness? How has that changed you to be free to forgive others? Why is forgiveness so difficult to give?

A forgiving heart reveals appreciation of grace. Forgiven people forgive. Look at verse 22. What is the significance of forgiving 77 times (or 490 depending on translation)?

This number can also indicate a habit, a heart that doesn't keep score. Who has wronged you "for the last time"?

My debt of sin is so great that I am unable to pay it. I am spiritually bankrupt (Psalm 49:8). How does Jesus turn this realization into a blessing? (Matthew 5:3)

The unmerciful servant was left to deal with his legal debt. The only recourse for any who reject mercy is judgment under the law (James 2:13). What would happen if God dealt with me justly instead of mercifully? When have I expected mercy for myself, but demanded justice for another?