

# Letting Go of Grudges

Matthew 18:21 (HCSB) Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

<b>Series:</b> Unpacking Forgiveness #4	South Orlando Baptist Church
<b>Topics:</b> Bitterness, Moving on, Salvation	November 1, 2014
<b>Text:</b> Matthew 18:21-35	Dr. David Crowe

Letting go of a grudge will require you to...

- 1) See the complete forgiveness you have been given (21-27)
  - a. Throughout scripture, God reminds us of the total removal of our sins through faith in His salvation –
    - i. God remembers them no more - Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34
    - ii. Placed as far as the east is from the West - Psalm 103:12
    - iii. He casts them into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:19
- 2) Show others the same mercy you have been shown (28-33)
  - a. The servant was forgiven of a debt of 10,000 talents. A talent was the largest measure of money known in the Roman world. It would be equal to the wages of 10,000 men for 17 years. In today's dollars, it would be billions of dollars. When Solomon built the temple and overlaid it with gold, the Bible says there were 8,000 talents of gold.
  - b. In comparison, the offense against the servant was very small. It was not a millionth of the debt owed by the unforgiving servant. The proportion was over 1 to 1,250,000—an enormous difference. (Pulpit Commentary)
  - c. This entire parable leads up to the phrase, “Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?” God has shown us amazing mercy through the death of His son Jesus on the cross for our sins. Who do you need to extend mercy to today?
- 3) Submit to the warnings of scripture (34-35)
  - a. Matthew warns elsewhere that if we do not forgive, that our Heavenly Father will not forgive us:
    - i. Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV) 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.
  - b. We will be handed over to torture if we do not forgive. However, in light of Matthew 6:14-15, we must heed the warning that this torture can mean eternal torment in hell.

## Application Questions

Answers to some of the following questions will be found in Matthew 18.

1. What question did Peter ask Jesus? (18:21)
2. What surprising answer did Jesus give Peter? (18:22)
3. How did Jesus illustrate His answer to Peter's question? (18:23)
4. To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? (18:23)
5. In the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, what did the king want to do? (18:23)
6. How was the king prepared to get the large amount of money owed him by a particular servant? (18:24-25)
7. What did the indebted servant do? (18:26)
8. How did the king graciously respond to the indebted servant's desperate plea? (18:27)
9. What did the servant go do after his debt was cancelled? (18:28)
10. How did the second servant respond to the demand for payment? (18:29)
11. What effect did the second servant's pleas have on the first servant? (18:30)
12. Who watched with dismay as the first servant refused to have mercy on the second? Why? (18:31)
13. How did the onlookers respond when they saw the first servant throw the second in jail? (18:31)
14. How did the king react to the news he heard? (18:32-34)
15. How did Jesus apply this parable to His followers? (18:35)
16. How likely are we to forgive someone once, twice, or even three times?
17. How likely are people to forgive someone beyond three times?
18. How are we to interpret Jesus' answer, "seventy-seven times"?
19. Why is an unforgiving spirit so deadly?
20. In what ways has God shown mercy in forgiving our sins?
21. If God is so willing to forgive us, why are we sometimes unwilling to forgive others?
22. How do we sometimes forgive with strings attached?
23. What should we do if we don't feel like forgiving others?
24. How is it possible for us to forget the wrongs others have done to us?
25. What individual(s) do you need to "release from their debts" today?
26. What are some practical ways you can show mercy today to someone who has wronged you?