



A MESSAGE SERIES

ONCE UPON

a

LIFE CHANGING STORIES
THAT JESUS TOLD

Foundations: Forgiveness

BUSINESS COMMUNITY CHURCH



EVERY NATION
GATEWAY

Foundations: Forgiveness

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant



Why Unforgiveness is Bad Physically

Mayo Clinic

- Improved mental health
- Less anxiety, stress and hostility
- Lower blood pressure
- Fewer symptoms of depression
- A stronger immune system
- Improved heart health



Why Unforgiveness is Bad Physically

Johns Hopkins

“There is an enormous physical burden to being hurt and disappointed,” says Karen Swartz, M.D., director of the Mood Disorders Adult Consultation Clinic at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Chronic anger puts you into a fight-or-flight mode, which results in numerous changes in heart rate, blood pressure and immune response. Those changes, then, increase the risk of depression, heart disease and diabetes, among other conditions.



Unforgiveness is Disastrous Eternally

Matthew 6:14-15 ESV

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



How do you know you have unforgiveness?

- You have an imaginary argument.
- You mind read what they say or do and it's about you.
- When you see that person, you feel tense.
- Some of you haven't forgiven yourself.
 - "I don't deserve _____ because I did this."

Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

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?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.



Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

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. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 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.'



Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.



Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



The Moral of the Story

Matthew 18:35 ESV

³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Master = God

Servant = Me, You

Wicked Servant = Us when we don't forgive



How do we not be a Wicked Servant?

We have been forgiven a debt we cannot repay.



Our Debt is Sin

- External actions/behaviors
- Internal thoughts and motivations
- Are you perfect?
- How do you pay for all your sins?
- Even if you don't consider God's standards you fail



God Forgave Us through the Cross

Psalm 103:10-12 ESV

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

1 Peter 2:24a NASB

²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.



God Forgiving Us Produces Forgiveness

Matthew 18:32b-33 ESV

³² **I forgave you all that debt** because you pleaded with me.

³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant,
as I had mercy on you?



Forgiving is hard. That's why we need Jesus.

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Jesus Took Our Place in Jail

Matthew 18:34-35 ESV

³⁴ And in anger **his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.** ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Isaiah 50: 6 ESV

⁶ I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus was taken by guards, tortured, and put in jail to await trial.



When you forgive, it isn't something cheap.

- It's costly and valuable. When you forgive, you are offering the precious love/death of Christ to someone.
- When you forgive, you rise from the dead just as Jesus rose from the dead.



When you don't forgive, you're dead.

- **You're in jail physically**

Bitterness' physiological effects on the body.

- **Spiritual jail** (Matthew 6:14-15 ESV)

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



Forgive from your heart.

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When we forgive, we become like God.

- To err is human, to forgive is divine.
- **Matthew 18:33 ESV**
³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, **as I had mercy on you?**
- When we don't forgive, we are wicked.





Have you experienced the forgiveness of God?

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Say the Sinner's Prayer.

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Say a Prayer to Release Forgiveness.

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