

# Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35



"As you enter a house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town."

**Matthew 10:14-15**



"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive."

- C.S. Lewis



# Forgiveness Defined

“Forgive” (Gk. *aphiemi*) {af-ee'-ay-mee} -  
Literally, to send from one's self,  
to forsake, to hurl away, to cast off, to let go.  
Conveys the idea that you have acted to totally  
detach and totally separate  
from the thing  
that has been cast.



# Forgiveness Defined

"as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our  
transgressions from us."

Psalm 103:12



# Forgiveness Defined

"[Aphiemi] refers to the act of putting something away. God did that at the Cross when He put sin away by incarnating Himself in humanity in the Person of His Son, stepping down from His judgment throne, assuming the guilt of man's sin, and paying the penalty, thus, satisfying His justice, and making possible an offer of mercy on the basis of justice satisfied. When a sinner avails himself of the merits of that atoning sacrifice, he thus puts himself within the provision God made. His sins were put away at the Cross, and he comes into the benefit of that when he believes."

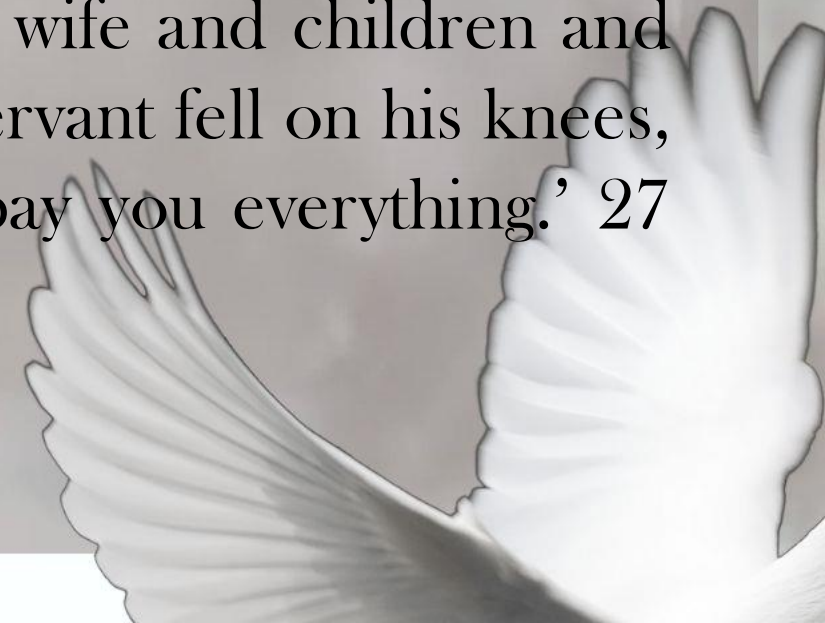
- Kenneth Wuest, *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*



# Forgiveness Demonstrated

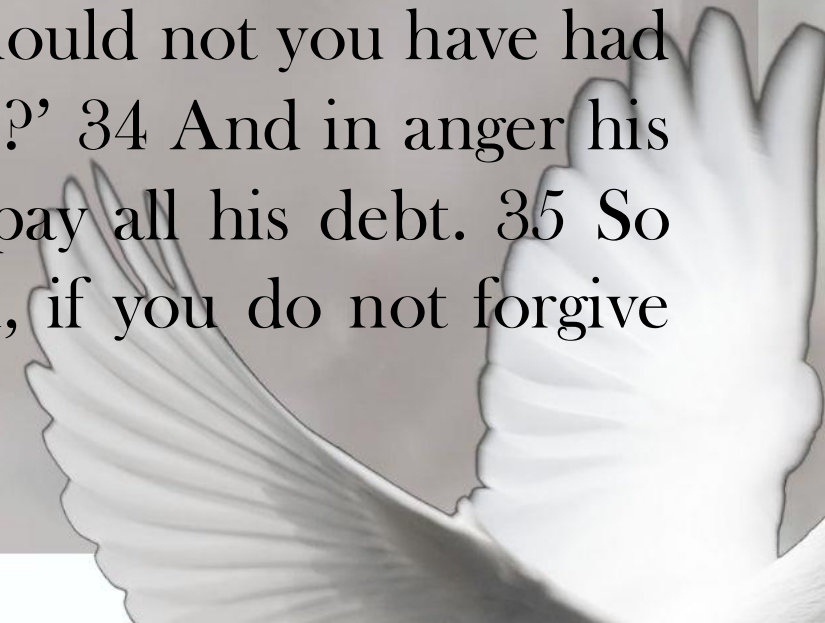
"Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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."

**Matthew 18:21-27**



"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.' 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. 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.'"

**Matthew 18:28-35**





# How to Forgive

Modeled upon  
Matthew 18:21-35  
with additional  
scripture



# 1. Understand that you are forgiven for your sin through Christ

“Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness;  
but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of  
destruction, for you have cast all my sins  
behind your back.”

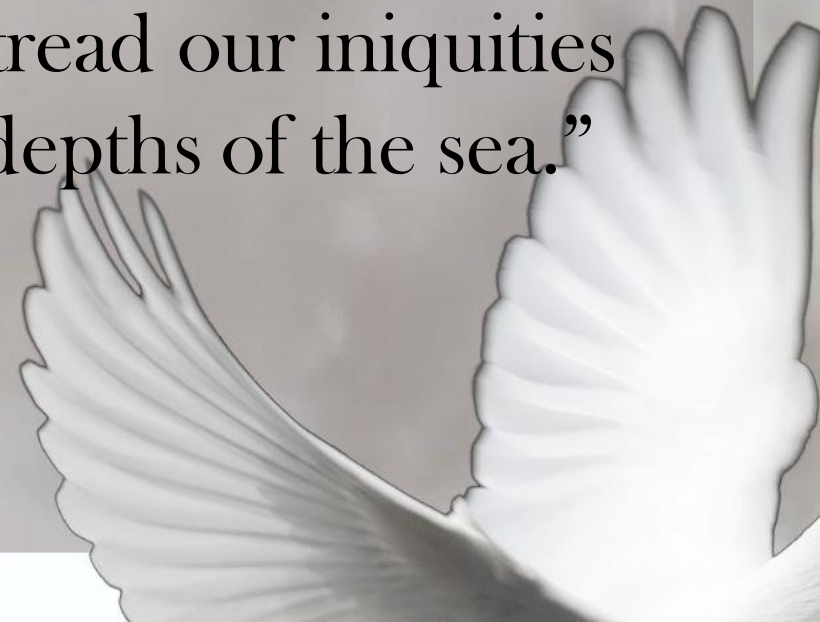
- Isaiah 38:17



# 1. Understand that you are forgiven for your sin through Christ

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

- Micah 7:18-19



1. Understand that you are forgiven  
for your sin through Christ

“And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they  
know not what they do.”

- Luke 23:34



## 2. Understand that you have no right to condemn

“and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 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.

- Matthew 6:12-15



2. Understand that you have no right to condemn

“Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me.”

- Archibald Hart quoted in  
James Dobson's *Love Must Be Tough*



3. Mercifully release the right  
to condemn to the Lord  
who is the Judge

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven”

- Luke 6:37



3. Mercifully release the right  
to condemn to the Lord  
who is the Judge

“He that doth not forgive burns the bridge over  
which he himself must needs pass.”

- Unknown





4. Trust in the Judge to render justice and righteousness, in this life or the next.

“For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.”

- Isaiah 33:22



4. Trust in the Judge to render justice and righteousness, in this life or the next.

“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

- Hebrews 4:13



4. Trust in the Judge to render justice and righteousness, in this life or the next.

“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.”

- Corrie Ten Boom



What Forgiveness

Is and Is Not

Adapted from

Dr. Larry Petton's "I Can't Forgive"



# Forgiveness

*is not* simple

*is* a complex act of volition that may not yet be followed by our emotion



# Forgiveness

*is not* natural

*is* a supernatural act of God to move  
in us to let go of our  
right to condemn



# Forgiveness

*is not* a one-time event

*is* a process of release as the Lord  
heals our hurt and enables us to  
set up appropriate boundaries



# Forgiveness

*is not* approval or tolerance of sin

*is* allowance for the Judge of the universe to deal with the condemnation of sin





# Forgiveness

*is not* denial, forgetting, minimizing

*is* recognizing sin and releasing it to  
the Lord so that He can work  
His hand of healing within us



# Forgiveness

*is not* dependent on an apology

*is* what our Master asks us to do for others regardless of whether we think they deserve it or not



# Forgiveness

*is not* necessarily relationship restoration

*is* a release of the person to the Lord;  
recognition that trust and relationship  
may be lost





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