



"Parable of the Unforgiving Servant"

Matthew 18:21-35



Unforgiveness = Poison to the Soul!

1. A very HAUNTING verse!

- Verse 34 - "delivered him over to **the TORMENTORS!**"
- Verse 34 - "handed him over to the jailers **to be TORTURED!**"
- "Unforgiveness is its **OWN PRISON!**"
- **Torment** = the FRUIT of the ENEMIE'S work and enjoyment!
- **The Door Way** is through bitterness, unforgiveness, jealousy, resentment, anger and strife!

A. The POISON comes from the ENEMY!

- Revelation 12:9 - "that ancient SERPENT...called the Devil"
- **You getting hurt** = **you got bitten!** *You cannot let the poison set in!*
- The only remedy is Acts 28:1-6 - **Shake the snake off!**
- "**Do not let the Poison take effect!**" This is NOT an easy choice! Getting bit with poison hurts!
- But, **Jesus is the ANTIDOTE!**
- **Antidote** = "A medicine given to counteract poison!" How about John 3:16 = A PERSON named Jesus Christ **GIVEN** to us to counteract the poison of sin, unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness and much more!

B. Point of the Unforgiving Servant:

- Unforgiveness **always** ties you to the person who torments you!
- It's amazing how people can move on after they have hurt you in a huge way...yet you are the one having to still deal with it! It begins to torment you!
- **Satan's goal for you in this life? That you are TORMENTED now and forever by him/with him!**
- **Why?** Because he **KNOWS** that he will be tormented for Eternity! It is his way of getting back at God to destroy the very people that God created in anyway that he can!

2. Forgiveness starts in your heart!

- Matthew 18:35 - "**from your heart...**"
- Your Heavenly Father has forgiven you!
- Anger & Unforgiveness **FEELS** good toward people after they hurt you...*but you are the one poisoned!*
- This **ONLY** leads to **being TORMENTED** by them!
- In all actuality, they are **CONTROLLING** your life!
- **How?** They are constantly in your thoughts, emotions and heart! When you lay down at night and wake in the morning! It's torment!

3. The cause for the UNFORGIVENESS!

- Matthew 18:24-27 (**1st guy** - \$10 million owed to the Master!)

- **Matthew 18:28-30** (2nd guy - \$2000 owed)
- **Point:** The 1st guy forgot about the **King's Grace!**
- Don't ever forget how Jesus, King of kings, has forgiven you! If you do...*you will treat others harshly!*
- **Point:** Deal with the stuff in your life today, and ask God to help you! If not...*torment will run your life!*
- **FACT:** *Forgotten Grace causes unforgiving living!* Don't forget God's Grace to you!
- If you have done **1 John 1:9** with a true repentant heart...then Jesus has forgiven you! Do the same towards others!
- Sometimes this involves **shaking the dust off of your feet** and **letting that person or people GO!**
- Choose to not be CHAINED to the TORMENTORS!

A. **Matthew 18:21-22** – “70 x's 7”

- Forgiveness is NOT letting the other person off the hook!
- Forgiveness is YOU not being TORMENTED by them! It's letting you off the hook!
- **Why?** *They may never be repentant! They may never ever be sorry! Don't let them run the rest of your life!*
- **Let's do a DEEP DIVE here:** Peter thinks that he is doing something so GREAT here by forgiving someone 7x's! The rabbi's would teach out of **Amos 1:3, 6 & 2:1**, that since God forgave Israel's enemies only 3x's, it was presumptuous and unnecessary to forgive anyone more than 3x's!
- *Peter thought more than doubling that would be sufficient! Nope! Verse 22!!! 70 x's 7!!!*
- **Matthew 6:14-15** – “**IF you forgive** vs. **IF you do not forgive...**” *These are the only two options Jesus gives!*

B. **Forgiveness allows God to be your Just Judge!**

- Notice **verse 27** and **verses 32-34!** *The Master isn't mean...the Master is full of Compassion!*
- Yet, when the Unforgiving Servant did what he did...*the Master JUDGED him!*
- **Verse 27** – what a picture of the generous and compassionate forgiveness of God to a pleading sinner who owes Him an **UNPAYABLE DEBT!** (10 Million)!
- He should have been so grateful! **But he turns MEAN!**
- **Verses 32-34** – Look at what the **JUST JUDGE** does to fight and punish on behalf of the other man who got wronged big time by the Unforgiving Servant!
- **Romans 12:19** – Nothing escapes God! **2 Corinthians 5:10!**
- Do not let the enemy STEAL another day from you by allowing that other person to continue to torment you by what they have done!
- **Why? It COSTS YOU way more for YOU NOT to forgive!** (You can forgive, and shake the dust off of your feet with them! You can cut ties and still forgive!)

Closing: Forgive and Forget?????

- The Bible says this about God, and this is what he does with us! **Isaiah 43:25 / Hebrews 8:12 / Psalm 103:12**
- **But, we are not God my friends! Forgiving and forgetting is not a human thing!**
- **The Forgive and Forget saying** actually started in the 1st Century England that humans need to do this.
- *People would say that you really haven't forgiven if you really have not forgotten.*
- **This is not true!** I can forgive in my heart and for real, *but how do you forget some of the things that have happened. You can't! You do not allow it to torment you...don't fixate on it!*
- **Especially today with technology!** If you are not careful, things like Facebook and other technology areas can *always bring back* so many **FEELINGS from the people!**
- **FACT** – There is a HUGE difference between not being able to forget vs. **FIXATING!**
- **FACT** - Not forgetting is human! **Fixating is deciding to stay bitter!**
- See with God – He is GOD! He has nothing to ever learn! **We do!**
- God's ways and thoughts are **HIGHER** than ours! Thank God! He forgives and forgets!
- Do your best to not **FIXATE** as you forgive! Do your best to fix your eyes on Jesus! **Hebrews 12:2**

The Bucket and the Bricks! Here is what it is like when we let others torment us!