



THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:21-35

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Good morning Church! We make mistakes when we say or do things that are wrong and offend others, sometimes other people say or do things that are wrong and hurt us. When that happens, what should we do? What should be done is to ask for forgiveness if we have made a mistake or to forgive others if they have offended us. To forgive someone is a very difficult thing to do, especially if you have been hurt. It takes courage to forgive a person who has hurt you. The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness. One of Jesus' closest disciples once asked him about this subject.

Matthew 18:21-35

"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. 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.' 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."

1. God's Forgiveness CONQUERS the IMPOSSIBLE.

*"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." **Matthew 19:26***

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:8-9***

- God forgives us in the MULTITUDE of our MISTAKES.
- Jesus calls us to first be in HIM and He in US if we are to be FRUITFUL.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." **John 15:5***

2. God's Forgiveness CONTRIBUTES To The Forgiveness of OTHERS.

*"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." **Ephesians 4:32***

*"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."
James 5:16*

- The lack of FORGIVENESS holds us back from the FREEDOM of SIN.
- The lack of FORGIVENESS and UNCONFESSED sin holds us back from being USEFUL and FRUITFUL.

3. God's Forgiveness CORRESPONDS To The MERCY and JUDGEMENT of God.

*"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**. **13** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him."*

Psalm 103:11-13

- God is as MERCIFUL as He is JUST.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead **YOU WILL BE SAVED. The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.**

Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being **BAPTIZED**.