



# FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:21-35



## DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS

“Forgiveness” = to let go of all hurt, claims, or injury caused by another by liberating this person from their offence.



## Forgiveness is an Attribute of God

“If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared” - Psalm  
130:3-4 (NKJV)

If I want to be like Him, then forgiveness must become an attribute of who I  
am!

## DIFFICULTY OF FORGIVENESS

“Then Peter came to him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times: but up to seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:21-22).

490 times? No!

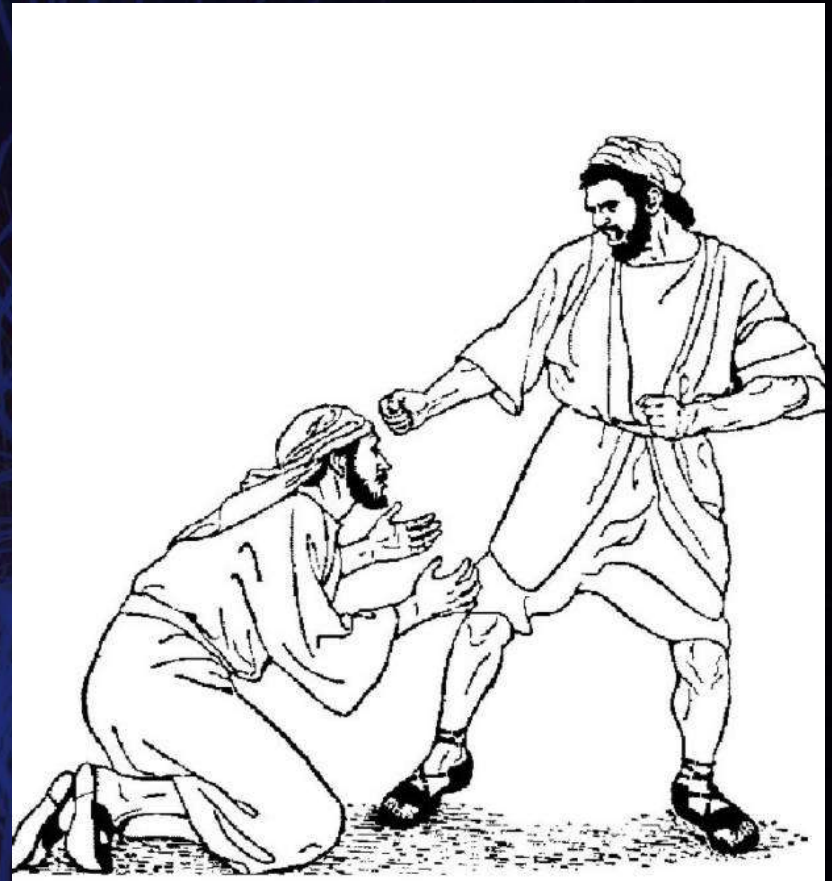
Unlimited willingness to forgive!

## Why is Forgiveness often Difficult?

- Because we forgive prematurely:
  - Luke 17:3-4
    - “...if he repents, forgive him.”
- Because we do not follow God’s instructions:
  - Matt. 18:15-20
    - “...go and tell him alone...take one or two more...tell it to the church...heathen and publican”

## Lord's Illustration of the Difficulty of Forgiveness

- Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt. 18:22-35):
  - 10,000 talents
  - 100 denari
  - Life sentence!



## DISPOSITION OF FORGIVENESS

- Patience

- “The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all” (Matt. 18:26).

- Compassion

- “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt” (Matt. 18:27).

- Mercy

- “Should you not also have had compassion {mercy} on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?” (Matt. 18:33).

## What does this tell me?

- I must be patient, compassionate, and merciful.
- My faith is intellectual, but must also be emotional.

“So my heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses” (Matt. 18:35).