

Teaching: “Forgive and be Forgiven”

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses, Matthew 6:14-15.

Forgiveness is important

Why forgive, (they truly did me wrong, they don't deserve it).

- It is primarily for you. (it releases you from the bitterness of carrying around your 'rightful-wrong').

Forgiveness is not:

- a “get out of jail free card” for the offender.
 - it does not necessarily turn you into a walking doormat.
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God sees forgiveness as important:

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remembers that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Matthew 5:23-24.

Parable of the wicked servant, *Matthew 18:23-35.*

God is actually the Forgiver:

- We cannot do it without Him. (when we agree to forgive others – He will then forgive us.
 - At times we also need to forgive ourselves.
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Once we forgive, we are able to enjoy God's peace

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid, John 14:27.

Forgiveness: it's a kingdom requirement.

- ♦ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, **1st John 1:9**.
- ♦ Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . . If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses, **Matthew 6:11-12, 14-15**.
- ♦ Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered, **Romans 4:7**.
- ♦ In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; **Ephesians 1:7**.
- ♦ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, has He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses;