



Rock Point Church
Daniel Goulding | 09.15.2024

BIG IDEA | Forgiveness isn't easy, but it leads to freedom.

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

Luke 17:1a, 3-5 (NLT)

¹ One day Jesus said to his disciples, "There will always be temptations to sin.."

³ So watch yourselves! "If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. ⁴ Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive."

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith."

Forgiveness is not...

- **Forgetting.**
- **Fair.**
- **A feeling.**

Matthew 18:23-25 (NLT)

²³ “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

We owe far more than we realize.

Matthew 18:26-27 (NLT)

²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

We have been forgiven more than we deserve.

Matthew 18:28-33 (NLT)

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’”

Forgive according to what you have received, not according to what they deserve.

Matthew 18:34-35 (NLT)

³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters[e] from your heart.”

Forgiveness may not free them, but it will always free you.

An unforgiving heart reveals an unforgiven heart.

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

- 1. What stood out to you about this week’s sermon?***
- 2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does understanding the magnitude of our own spiritual debt impact the way you view***

forgiveness?

3. How can recognizing the extent of God's mercy towards us influence our ability to forgive others?

4. What are some of the emotional or spiritual consequences of holding onto unforgiveness? Why is it easier for us to hold on to our pain instead of forgiving? How can we find healing and freedom through forgiveness?

5. What is one area in your life where you are struggling to forgive? What steps can you take this week to begin the process of letting go and moving towards forgiveness?