



## Forgiving Freedom

Matthew 18:21-35

February 9, 2003

**The question:** Is there a limit to the frequency of our forgiveness toward others?

**The definition:** Forgiveness – The willingness to release someone from the responsibility of paying the debt of healing our pain.

**New question:** How often should I release someone from the responsibility of healing my pain?

**Think about this:** How often do you want God to free you from the obligation of Jesus' pain on the cross?

### THE DOOM OF SIN'S DEBT

1. Sin is against a superior. v.23
2. There is an account of sin. v.24

*Ps 40:12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me.*

3. Repayment is mandatory. v.25
4. Once you are sold into sin you will be owned by the penalty. v.25

*Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

5. We are unable to pay.

*Ps 49:6-8 Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him-for the redemption of their souls is costly.*

6. The master's forgiveness is based solely on his mercy. v.27

**Unforgiveness:** Unwillingness to release someone from the responsibility of healing your pain.

- We often refuse to forgive sins smaller than the ones for which we want forgiveness. v.28
- We cannot know the degree of our own sin. Jeremiah 17:9
- We are more critical of the sins in others than our own. v. 32-33
- We often forget the mercy expressed to us when we are begged for mercy. v.30

#### Unforgiveness is realized in:

Jealousy	Anger
Resentment	Backbiting
A critical spirit	Desire for revenge

- The freedom we experience when we are forgiven is to be used to forgive others.
- God does not reverse His pardons but He denies pardons to those that are unqualified for them. v. 33-35

Lord's Prayer: *Matt 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

We want limits to be placed on our requirements for mercy toward others, but not on God's requirement for mercy toward us.

*James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.*

#### DO YOU NEED TO REPENT FOR BEING UNFORGIVING?

##### THREE COMPONENTS TO TRUE REPENTANCE:

1. Acknowledgement of wrong: Admit that you are wrong.
2. Admission of guilt: Tell the person of the sin of your heart and ask them to forgive you.
3. Remember: Repentance has no defense.

Today you can experience the freedom of God's forgiveness by repenting of your sin.

Receive God's complete forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ.