

**Don't Forget To Forgive**

SOMETHING  
MORE

experience a growth centered life



# The Challenge:

## Matthew 18

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

# The Challenge

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

Ten thousand talents combines the largest Greek numeral with the largest unit of currency. Even one talent was a small fortune; ten thousand was beyond the wildest dreams of ordinary people.

D. A. CARSON; R. T. FRANCE; J. ALEC MOTYER; GORDON J. WENHAM

# The Challenge

<sup>26</sup> “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup> The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup> “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

**A hundred denarii is not a negligible amount (a hundred days' wages), but is a mere six-hundred-thousandth of the first sum!**

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# The Challenge

<sup>30</sup> “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup> In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

# The Challenge

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will  
treat each of you . . .



## The Challenge

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you ***unless*** you forgive your brother from your heart.”

**Thus, in the light of God's  
incalculable grace to us, it is  
ludicrous, as well as wicked, for  
us to refuse to forgive others.**

**D. A. CARSON; R. T. FRANCE; J. ALEC MOTYER; GORDON J. WENHAM**

# The Big Question:

## *WHY IS THIS SUCH A BIG DEAL*

1. Our response to others reveals the thoroughness of our comprehension of the extent of our need for God's God's grace in our lives.
2. Our response when offended, wounded, or broken reveals who is really sovereign in our lives.

# How are we to forgive

<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

It is extremely important to note that the focus in the meanings of ἀφίημι, ἄφεσις, and ἀπολύω is upon the guilt of the wrongdoer and not upon the wrongdoing itself. The event of wrongdoing is not undone, but the guilt resulting from such an event is pardoned. To forgive, therefore, means essentially to remove the guilt resulting from wrongdoing.

**Johannes P. Louw; Eugene A. Nida**

# Our “natural” response

1. My sin is nothing compared to what was done to me.

# What is the true nature of forgiveness?

Ephesians 2:1–10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath

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heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

# Our “natural” response

1. My sin is nothing compared to what was done to me.
2. They don't deserve to be forgiven.
3. Does this cover *everything*?
4. I can't forgive.

# Obvious Questions

- ▶ What does forgiveness require?
  1. A willingness to not hide from the pain.
  2. A willingness to let go of your “right” to personally punish the other party.

A deep commitment to allow God to be the one who prosecutes your case and brings justice to the offender.

- ▶ What do you desire?

## To Go . . .

- ▶ Why is forgiveness such a big deal to God?
- ▶ Do you *really* care about what God wants?
- ▶ What keeps you from forgiving as you have been forgiven?