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## **Christian Character: Forgive Like Jesus**

### **There's Strength And Deliverance In Becoming A Person of Forgiveness**

**Matthew 18:21-22** - *Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"*<sup>22</sup> *"No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"*

**"When It Comes To Forgiving Others, We're Not To Keep Track At All."** – Jesus (paraphrased)

**1 Corinthians 13:5** - *...keeps no record of being wronged.*

### **Practice Forgiveness And Forget The Measuring Rod**

**Matthew 18:23-27** - *"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."<sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.'<sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.*

**Colossians 3:13** - *Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

### **Refusing To Work Toward Forgiveness Impedes Our Emotions**

**Colossians 2:11-14** - *When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.<sup>12</sup> For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

**Matthew 18:28-35** - *"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.<sup>29</sup> “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.<sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.<sup>31</sup> “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’<sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.<sup>35</sup> “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

**Matthew 5:48** - *But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

## **We Can And Must Grow Toward Maturity And Wholeness**

### **The First Servant’s Refusal To Forgive Is Disgraceful**

**vv. 32-33** - *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.<sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’*

**Matthew 6:14-15** - *“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.<sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

### **Our Forgiveness Of Others Should Be In Proportion To What God Has Done For Us**

**“We Appreciate God’s Love And Forgiveness But We’re Unwilling To Give It To Anyone Else”**

### **The World’s Worst Prison Is The Prison Of An Unforgiving Heart**

### **Forgiveness Isn’t Just An Act, But An Attitude**

**Ephesians 4:32** - *Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*