



**1) JESUS' TEACHING ON FORGIVENESS**

***Matthew 18:15-20***

The goal of seeking out the person who has sinned against you is so that they would \_\_\_\_\_ and you \_\_\_\_\_ them back.

***Matthew 18:21-22***

Forgiveness is the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who follow Jesus.

**THREE ACT PARABLE**

ACT ONE – **The Master's Compassion and Forgiveness** (*Matthew 18:23-27*)

ACT TWO – **The Servant's Refusal to Extend Forgiveness** (*Matthew 18:28-30*)

ACT THREE – **The Servant's Punishment** (*Matthew 18:31-35*)

**2) WHY FORGIVENESS IS DIFFICULT**

a) Real, sinful things have been done to us.

b) We get some short-term relational power in withholding forgiveness.

*Adapted from "Five Dark Benefits of Unforgiveness – Paul David Tripp*

- i. Debt is Power
- ii. Debt is identity
- iii. Debt is Entitlement
- iv. Debt Weaponry
- v. Debt puts us in God's position

c) We may never have truly embraced the forgiveness of God for our sins.

d) We have an emotional barrier.

e) We grow comfortable with unforgiveness.

f) We fear the injustice done to us will be minimized.

### 3) WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- a) It does not mean we treat the evil thing done to us as if they were really not that bad.
- b) It does not mean that we cannot get angry over the wrong done to us.
- c) It does not mean that there won't be painful consequences.
- d) It does not mean that forgiveness will look the same if the offender has NOT repented.

### 4) WHAT FORGIVENESS LOOKS LIKE

- a) Freely letting go of the offense.
- b) Not counting their sin against them.
- c) Actually desiring their best.
- d) Grieving at the consequences of their sin.
- e) Praying for their well being.
- f) Initiating reconciliation and seeking it out.
- g) Coming to their aid if they ask or need it.

### 5) ALIGNING OUR EMOTIONS WITH FORGIVENESS

- a) Realize that the greatest risk of an unforgiving heart is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- b) Realize that forgiving others is an indication that we have \_\_\_\_\_ God's forgiveness and \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  
- c) Realize that you can trust in God's sovereignty and \_\_\_\_\_.

### REFLECT

- *Is there anyone I am unwilling to forgive because they really hurt me?*
- *Why am I not extending forgiveness to them? Use the points in # 2 to evaluate.*
- *What emotional barriers have I erected that keep me from forgiving others?*
- *Do I trust in God's sovereignty and justice so that I am able to freely forgive? If not, why?*
- **Today** I will forgive \_\_\_\_\_.