

**Lesson/Point: “Forgive as God Forgives = Let it Go!”**

*Video from Family Entertainment - showing Matthew 18 below – about 20 minutes.*

***MKJV***

- Mat 18:21** Then Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Until seven times?
- Mat 18:22** Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven.
- Mat 18:23** Therefore the kingdom of Heaven has been compared to a certain king who desired to make an accounting with his servants.
- Mat 18:24** And when he had begun to count, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.
- Mat 18:25** But as he had nothing to pay, his lord commanded that he, and his wife and children, and all that he had, be sold, and payment be made.
- Mat 18:26** Then the servant fell down and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me and I will pay you all.
- Mat 18:27** Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.
- Mat 18:28** But the same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. And he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe.
- Mat 18:29** And his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, Have patience with me and I will pay you all.
- Mat 18:30** And he would not, but went and cast him into prison until he should pay the debt.
- Mat 18:31** So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry. And they came and told their lord all that was done.
- Mat 18:32** Then his lord, after he had called him, said to him, O wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.
- Mat 18:33** Should you not also have pitied your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you?
- Mat 18:34** And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him.
- Mat 18:35** So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also to you, unless each one of you from your hearts forgive his brother their trespasses.

### Teaching

1. Did Peter think he was a “big shot” because he said to forgive his brother 7 times?
2. Let me ask you, if you are counting how many times you forgive someone– is that forgiveness?
3. How does God forgive us?
  - a. He literally removes – cast them off

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**Psa 103:10** He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor repaid us for our iniquities.

**Psa 103:11** For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him.

**Psa 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has he removed our transgressions from us.

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- b. He rewrites the story – look at Hebrew 11 – Sarah

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**Heb 11:11** Through faith<sup>4102</sup> also<sup>2532</sup> Sarah<sup>4564</sup> herself<sup>846</sup> received<sup>2983</sup> strength<sup>1411</sup> to<sup>1519</sup> conceive<sup>2602</sup> seed,<sup>4690</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> was delivered of a child<sup>5088</sup> when she was past age,<sup>3844, 2244, 2540</sup> because<sup>1893</sup> she judged<sup>2233</sup> him faithful<sup>4103</sup> who had promised.<sup>1861</sup>

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**This story is removed:**

**Gen 18:11** Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods.

**Gen 18:12** So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am old and worn out, And besides, my husband is old too."

**Gen 18:13** Then the LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I really have a child when I am so old?'"

**Gen 18:14** Is anything too hard for the LORD? As I said, nine months from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

**Gen 18:15** Because Sarah was afraid, she denied it. "I didn't laugh," she said. "Yes, you did," he replied. "You laughed."

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4. In today's story – what did the servant who did not forgive have to pay back? (*To forgive as he was forgiven – notice that it was not the huge debt. That was forgiven him (and not Indian giver like.) How do I know this - his wife and children did not have to be sold as earlier. The king had forgiven his debt. But this was a NEW debt. We need to forgive as well! God wants us to FORGIVE! Why? It's the best thing to do!*)
  5. So what happens if we do not forgive?
    - a. – Brass heavens! Example – in my hand (a fist) I will hold 1 candy. Then there will be another jar that will not fit my fist but will be filled with candies. I want those too – but if I am unwilling to let go of the one candy – I can not get the others. We have to let go in order to receive God's blessings and forgiveness!
    - b. Tormentors – can have their way with us. I believe this is demons. People are in depression and all sorts of physical sicknesses because they are unwilling to forgive as God forgives.
  6. Remember forgiving means not keeping a record of wrongs! It does not mean that you are saying what someone did to you was right! It doesn't excuse the person for their wrongs. They still have to answer to God for what they have done. But, it frees you up clear! No tormentors allowed at your house!

Living Hope Church

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:**

1. When have you ever kept a record of wrong things someone has done to you? Did it make you feel better about it – at first, but how about later?
2. If a person's name comes up and you cringe, do you think that you have totally forgiven that person? (No.)
3. When you start to think about someone that wronged you or something bad that happened to you, how do you feel? Do you like feeling like that? Would you like to change that?
4. Did you know that when we keep bad, unforgiving thoughts about people bottled up inside, that we are “fellowshipping” or “hanging out with demons?” We are doing exactly what they want us to do and we allow them to torment us! Wouldn't you rather hang out with God in your mind through His Spirit? How can you send the demons running and hang out with God instead?
5. God's perfect will is for us to be at the least willing to forgive. Sometimes it takes time to forgive completely and sometimes we have to do it over and over again (until we don't think about it anymore). But, if God tells us to do something, He always helps us do it. Would you like to take this opportunity to forgive someone?
6. If so, pray a prayer like *Because I have been forgiven and because God wants me to forgive, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for doing \_\_\_\_\_ to me. I ask You Lord to bless them and help me to stop thinking about it. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Scripture verse: (Modern King James version)**

**Mat 6:11** Give us this day our daily bread;

**Mat 6:12** and forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors.