

## Why Must I Forgive?

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?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

<sup>23</sup> "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.

<sup>28</sup> "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 18:23-34

## I Must Learn To Forgive Because:

- I) I have been forgiven \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23
  - B) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1
  - C) When we feel \_\_\_\_\_, we tend to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D) Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.
  - E) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32
- II) \_\_\_\_\_ makes me miserable.

A) One person dies in prosperity, completely comfortable and secure, the picture of good health, vigorous and fit. Another person dies in bitter poverty, never having tasted the good life. Job 21:23-25

B) Surely resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple. Job 5:2

III) I'll need more forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_.

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7

#### The Forgiveness Test:

I) The \_\_\_\_\_ Test.

II) The \_\_\_\_\_ Test.

III) The \_\_\_\_\_ Test.

#### What do I do with the hurt in my life?

I) \_\_\_\_\_ them.

II) \_\_\_\_\_ them.

"If only you would prepare your heart and lift up your hands to him in prayer! Get rid of your sins, and leave all iniquity behind you. Then your face will brighten with innocence. You will be strong and free of fear. You will forget your misery; it will be like water flowing away.

Job 11:13-16

#### NEXT STEPS:

- I will memorize Ephesians 4:31-32.
- Today I receive God's forgiveness.
- I will choose to release those who have hurt me to God.