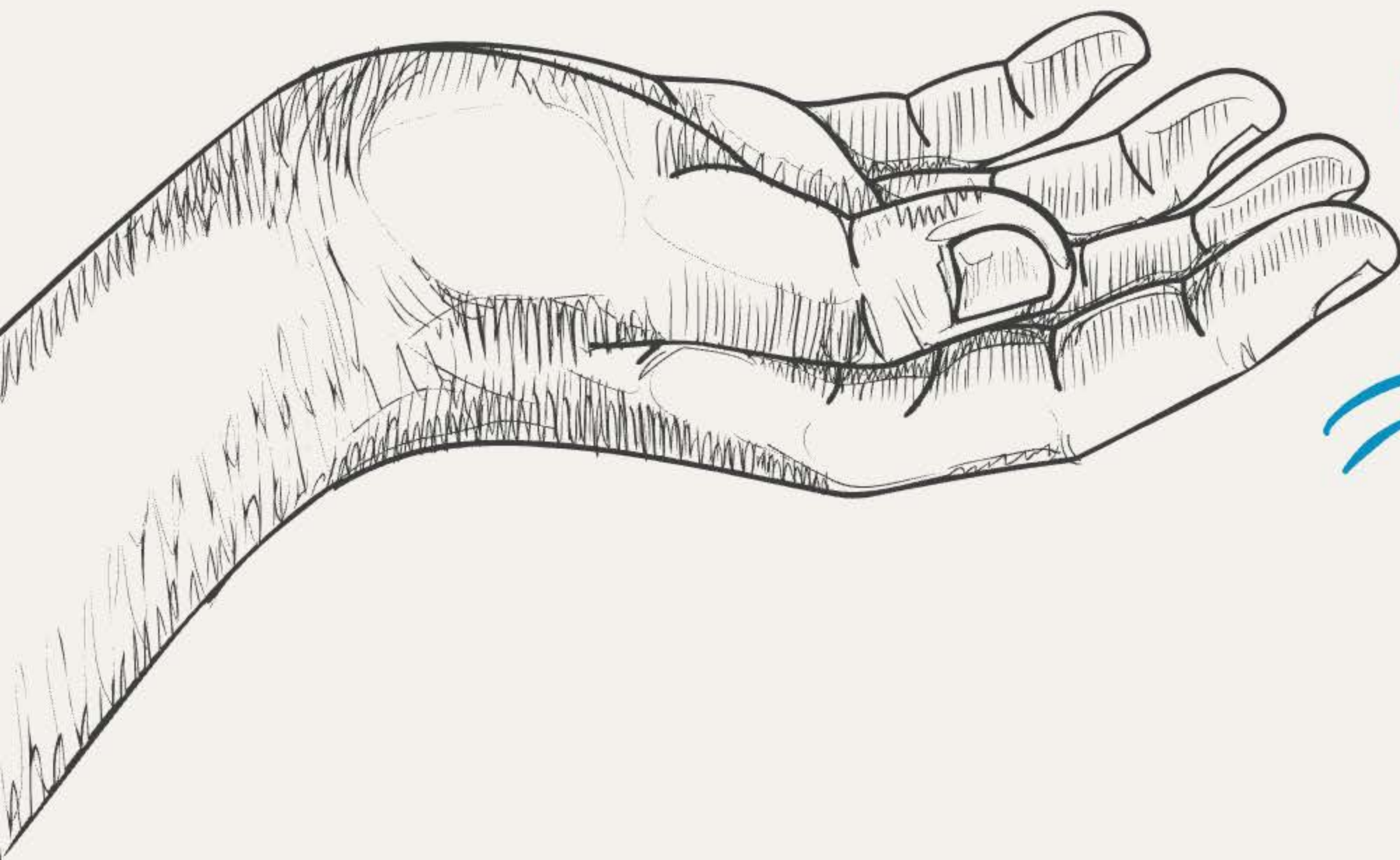


FORGIVENESS

The Oxygen
of the Kingdom



“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea,
until they have something to forgive.”

CS LEWIS

F O R G I V E N E S S

**WHY SHOULD I
FORGIVE?**

Matthew 6

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,
¹² and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

Matthew 6

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as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

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but rescue us from the evil one.

Matthew 6

- ¹⁴ If you forgive those who sin against you,
your heavenly Father will forgive you.
- ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your
Father will not forgive your sins.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiven People
Forgive

Pastor Phil Holcomb



Matthew 18

Matthew 18

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,
“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my
brother or sister who sins against me?
Up to seven times?”

Matthew 18:21-35

PARABLE ABOUT FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18

²² Jesus answered,
“I tell you, not seven times,
but seventy-seven times.

Genesis 4

²³ Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me.

Genesis 4

²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times,
Then Lamech seventy-seven times.

Genesis 4

²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times,
Then Lamech seventy-seven times.

Genesis 4

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Then Lamech seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18

²² Jesus answered,
“I tell you, not seven times,
but seventy-seven times.”

A person is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that leads towards a bright, hazy horizon, likely a sunrise or sunset. The path is flanked by fields. On the left side of the image, there is a large dark grey circle containing the word 'RESENTMENT' in orange. On the right side, there is a large orange circle containing the word 'FORGIVENESS' in white. The overall mood is contemplative and symbolic of a journey from negative emotions to positive ones.

RESENTMENT

FORGIVENESS



FEAR

**We want control over
the debt collection.**

**R
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T**

FEAR

**We want control over
the debt collection.**

FORGET

**We forget the debt
God has already forgiven.**

**T
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R**

FEAR

We want control over
the debt collection.

FORGET

We forget the debt
God has already forgiven.

REVENGE

We continue a cycle
of hurt and retaliation.

T
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Matthew 18

²⁸ “But when that servant went out,
he found one of his fellow servants who owed him
a hundred silver coins.

He grabbed him and began to choke him.
‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

Matthew 18

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

³⁰ “But he refused.

Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison
until he could pay the debt.

Matthew 18

³² “Then the master called the servant in.

‘You wicked servant,’ he said,

‘I canceled all that debt of yours

because you begged me to.

³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant
just as I had on you?’

Matthew 18

³⁵This is how your heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

“ We cannot go through heaven’s narrow door
if our lives are bulging with resentment. ”

Michael Green

R E S E N T M E N T

Genesis 4

²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times,
Then Lamech seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18

²² Jesus answered,
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of hurt and retaliation.

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Matthew 18

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.

Matthew 18

²⁵ 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.

Exodus 34

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,
“The Lord, the Lord,
the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger,
abounding in love and faithfulness,

Exodus 34

⁷Maintaining love to thousands,
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished...



TRUTH

Name the Debt

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness does NOT ignore the offense;
it tells the truth about what was lost.

F O R G I V E N E S S

“ When we forgive evil we do not excuse it,
we do not tolerate it, we do not smother it.
We look the evil full in the face, call it what it is,
let its horror shock and stun and enrage us,
and only then do we forgive it. ”

LEWIS SMEDES

F O R G I V E N E S S

TRUTH

Name the Debt

IDENTITY

**REMEMBER THE
BIGGER STORY**

As you remember what someone has done to you,
Remember what God has done for you.

F O R G I V E N E S S

Matthew 18

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.

Matthew 18

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him.

‘Be patient with me,’ he begged,

‘and I will pay back everything.’

²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him,
canceled the debt and let him go.

“

The one who forgives is willing to bear the consequences of the injustice that was done and erase the debt from the ledger of the one asking for forgiveness.

”

JIM VALEZ

F O R G I V E N E S S

TRUTH

Name the Debt

IDENTITY

REMEMBER THE
BIGGER STORY

FREEDOM

RELEASE THE DEBT

Forgiveness is releasing my right to collect the debt
and entrusting justice to God.

F O R G I V E N E S S

TRUTH

Name the Debt

IDENTITY

**REMEMBER THE
BIGGER STORY**

FREEDOM

RELEASE THE DEBT

Biblical forgiveness is
the grace-enabled decision
to release someone from my personal right
to collect the debt they owe me
because God, through Christ,
has released me from mine.

F O R G I V E N E S S

Matthew 6

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,

¹² and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,

but rescue us from the evil one.



RESENTMENT

FORGIVENESS

**WHY SHOULD I
FORGIVE?**

“

To forgive is to set a prisoner free
and discover that the prisoner is you.

”

LEWIS SMEDES

F O R G I V E N E S S

Like oxygen for the body, God's forgiveness is meant
to be breathed in and breathed out.

We inhale the extravagant grace of God.

We exhale the same grace toward others.

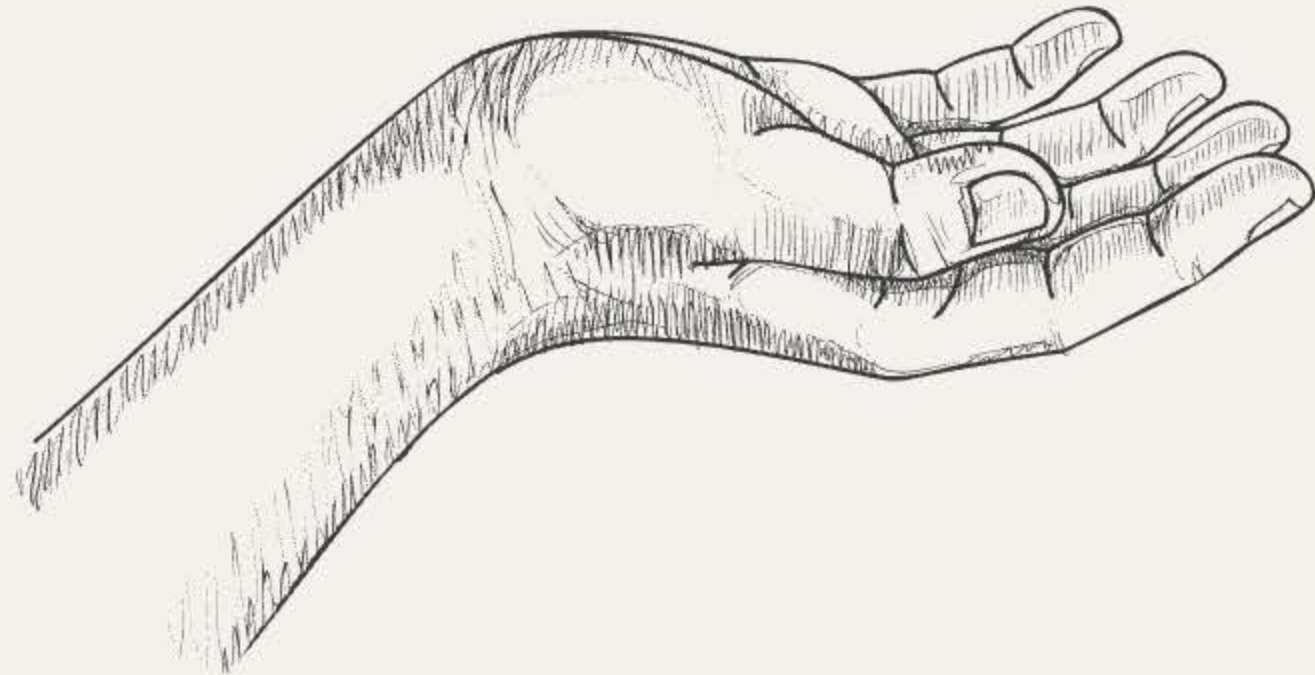
This is the rhythm of the Kingdom.



F O R G I V E N E S S

FORGIVENESS

Forgiven People
Forgive





REMEMBER THE BIGGER STORY
Forgiven People Forgive