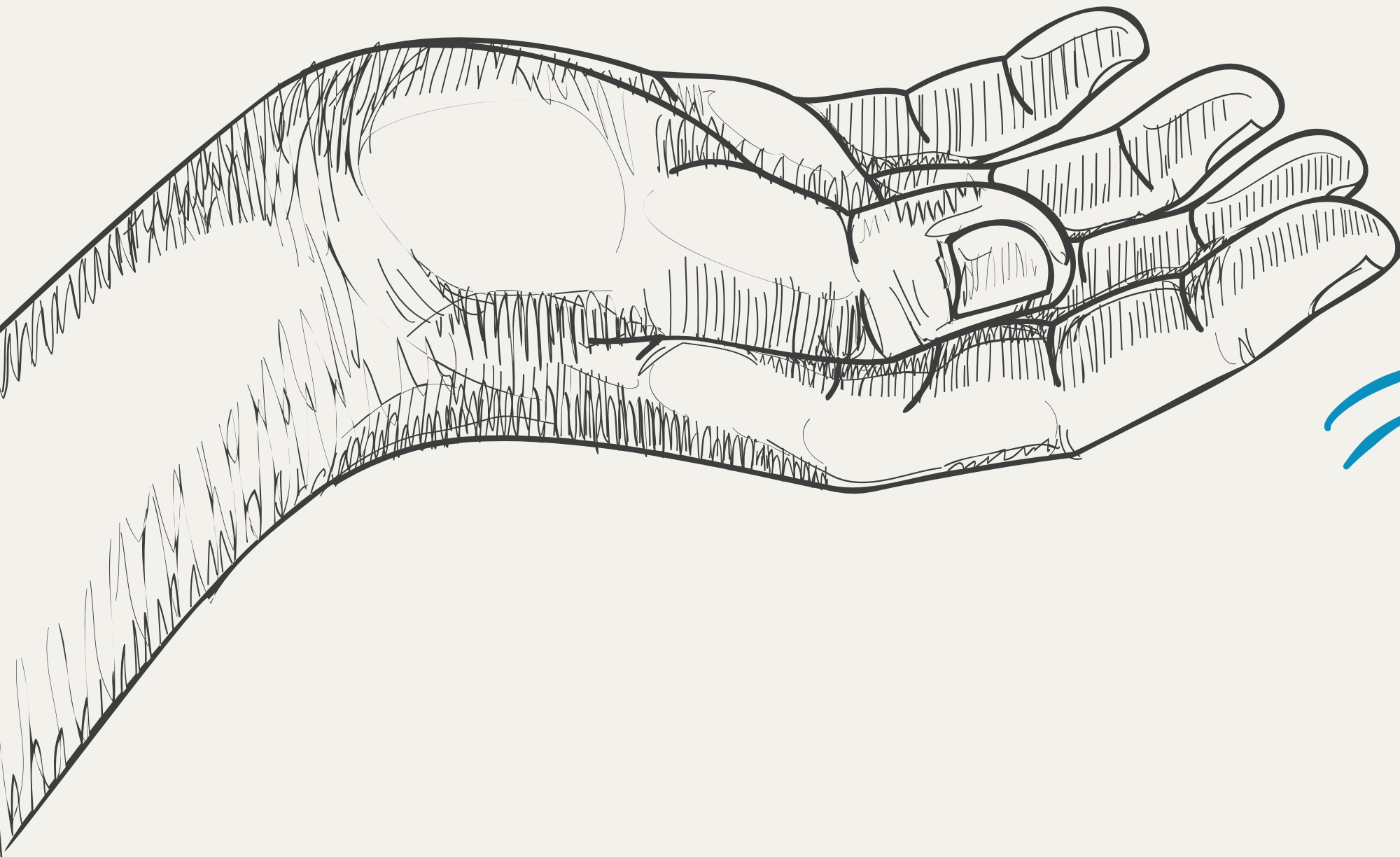


FORGIVENESS

The Oxygen
of the Kingdom



FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness Sets You Free

Dr. Craig H.



“ Christians are called to abandon bitterness, to be forbearing, to have a forgiving stance even even where the repentance of the offending party is conspicuous by its absence; on the other hand, their God-centered passion for justice, their concern for God’s glory, ensure that the awful odium of sin is not glossed over. ”

D.A. Carson, *Love in Hard Places*

F O R G I V E N E S S

Hebrews 12:14-15

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that **no bitter root** grows up to cause trouble and defile many.



THE BONDAGE OF **BITTERNESS**

**WHEN YOU LOCK THEM UP
IT CHAINS YOU DOWN.**

See to it that no one
falls short of the grace of God
and that no bitter root grows
up to cause trouble and to
defile many.

— HEBREWS 12:15 (NIV)

Mark 11:25

And when you stand praying, if you hold
anything against anyone, forgive them, so that
your Father in heaven may forgive your sins.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because **love covers over a multitude of sins.**

What forgiveness is not:

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What forgiveness is not:

1. It is not condoning the offender's behavior.
2. It is not continuing in an abusive situation.
3. It is not forgetting what happened and remaining silent.
4. It is not turning a blind eye to justice.
5. It is not easy.

What forgiveness is:

What forgiveness is:

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

Forgiveness gives us both the **emotional humility** and **emotional wealth** to rise above the bitterness that so easily entangles us and weighs us down, by providing us power to overcome the revenge culture that plagues our fallen world.

**FORGIVENESS
SETS YOU FREE**



FORGIVENESS
GIVES YOU
WINGS
RISE ABOVE REVENGE.



Romans 12:17-21

In today's message from Romans 12:17-21, God teaches us how to rise above revenge and to be set free from the bondage of bitterness, as we forgive those who have sinned against us by learning how to transfer our offenders from our system of justice to God's system of justice in Jesus.

**HOW CAN FORGIVENESS SET
US FREE FROM THE BONDAGE
OF BITTERNESS?**

Romans 12:17a

#1

**NEVER RETURN
EVIL FOR EVIL**

Romans 12:17a

^{17a} Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Romans 12:17b

#2

**ALWAYS DO WHAT
IS RIGHT**

Romans 12:17b

^{17b} Be careful to do what is right in the eyes
of everybody.

Romans 12:18

#3

**LIVE AT PEACE
WITH EVERYONE**

Romans 12:18

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:19-20

#4

**NEVER AVENGE
YOURSELF**

Romans 12:19-20

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him: if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Romans 12:21

#5

**OVERCOME EVIL
WITH GOOD**

Romans 12:21

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.

Forgiveness can set us free from the bondage of bitterness when we transfer those who have sinned against us from our system of justice to God's system of justice.



F O R G I V E N E S S



THE BONDAGE OF BITTERNESS

WHEN YOU LOCK THEM UP
IT CHAINS YOU DOWN.

HE
WRONGED
ME

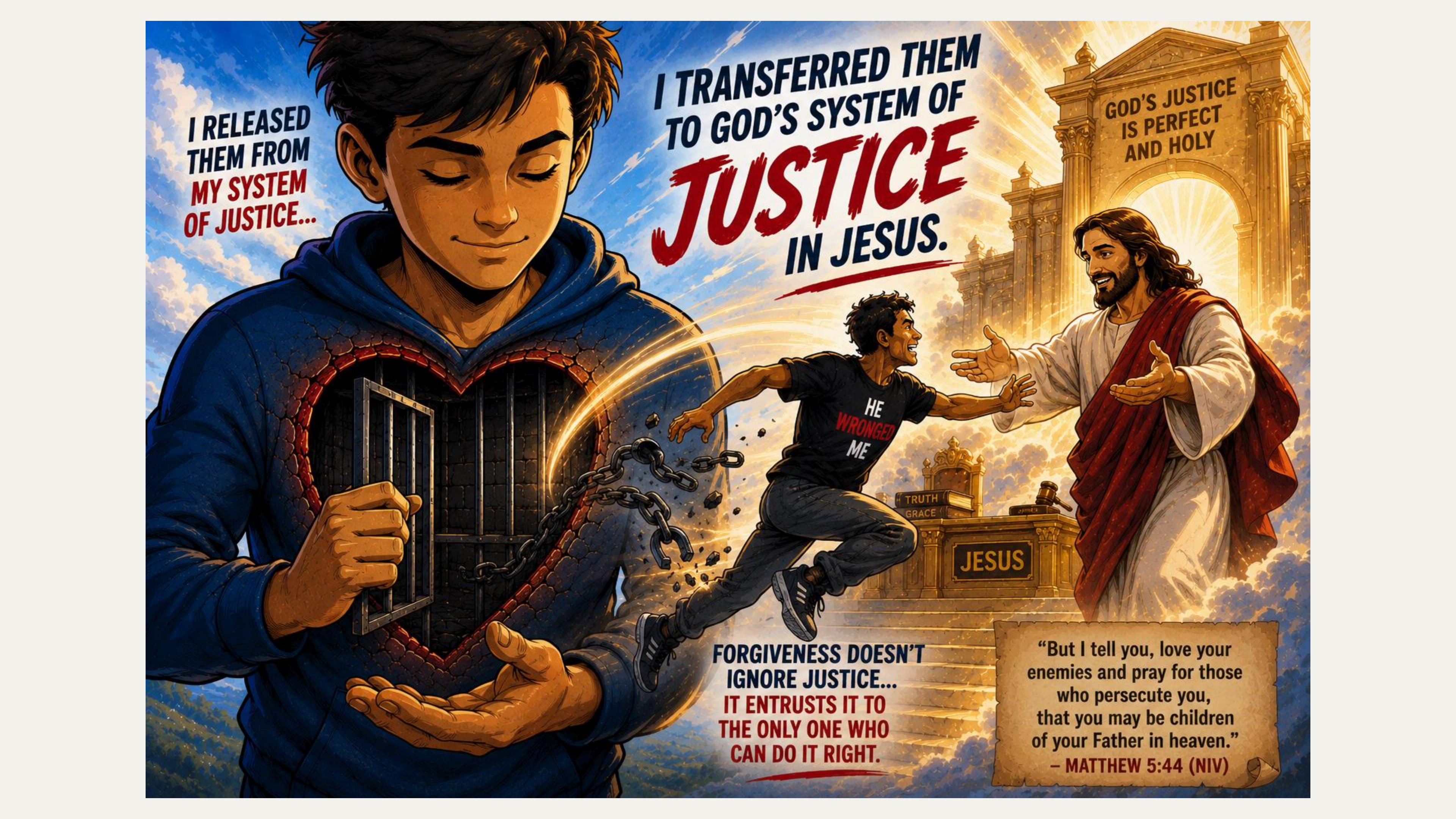
See to it that no one
falls short of the grace of God
and that no bitter root grows
up to cause trouble and to
defile many.

— HEBREWS 12:15 (NIV)

Therefore, I must release my offenders from the jail cell within my heart and transfer my offenders to the justice system of Jesus.



F O R G I V E N E S S



I RELEASED
THEM FROM
MY SYSTEM
OF JUSTICE...

I TRANSFERRED THEM
TO GOD'S SYSTEM OF
JUSTICE
IN JESUS.

GOD'S JUSTICE
IS PERFECT
AND HOLY

FORGIVENESS DOESN'T
IGNORE JUSTICE...
IT ENTRUSTS IT TO
THE ONLY ONE WHO
CAN DO IT RIGHT.

"But I tell you, love your
enemies and pray for those
who persecute you,
that you may be children
of your Father in heaven."
— MATTHEW 5:44 (NIV)

**THE FORGIVENESS OF
JESUS GIVES YOU WINGS**



FORGIVENESS
GIVES YOU
WINGS

RISE ABOVE REVENGE.



**THE FORGIVENESS OF
JESUS SETS YOU FREE
TO LOVE OTHERS LIKE
JESUS HAS LOVED YOU**

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness Sets You
Free

