How Often Should We Forgive Others?

Matthew 18:21-35

The Historical Setting (18:21-22)

- After receiving instruction on restoring an erring brother,Peter asks how often we should forgive a brother.

- Jesus responds our forgiveness is to be unlimited.

The Story (18:22-34)

- **Scene One**: Unable to pay a great debt, a slave receives mercy from the King. (18:22-27)

- **Scene Two**: The same slave refuses to show mercy to a fellow slave with a smaller debt. (18:28-30)

- **Scene Three**: Angered, the King revokes the mercy shown and throws the wicked slave into prison. (18:31-34)

The Application (18:35)

When we refuse to extend forgiveness, we lose fellowship with our Heavenly Father and will experience His discipline.





Roxane Gay, NY Times

“We forgive and forgive and forgive, and those who trespass against us continue to trespass against us.”

“I, for one, am done forgiving.”

Dr. Samuel Storms, “To Love Mercy”

“Few things cut across the grain of human nature like forgiving others. Breathing is easy. Eating is fun. No one thinks twice about blinking one’s eyes. But forgiving others is sheer agony! It grates on our souls like fingernails on a chalkboard. King Louis XII of France spoke for us all when he said, ‘Nothing smells so sweet as the dead body of your enemy’” p. 153

Dr. Samuel Storms, “To Love Mercy”

“We enjoy withholding forgiveness because it permits us to keep our enemies (and even some of our friends) under control. It gives us the opportunity to manipulate them into providing what we want from them. We use their offense against us as a rope to dangle them over the fires of vengeance. If we were to completely forgive them, we would lose our excuse for self-pity. And forgiveness would set them free from their obligation to us to ‘make good’”. p.153

Botham Jean





Amber Guyger

“Despite what you took from our family, I want you to know that I forgive you and I want nothing bad for you. Instead, what I want for you is to give your life to Christ.”

Brandt Jean

