The Forgiven are called to Forgive

“‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER / MATTHEW 6:9-13 ESV

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"...As we also have forgiven our debtors."

REMEMBER the mercy we have received...

Then Peter approached him and asked,
"Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?"

MATTHEW 18:21

"I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus replied, *"but seventy times seven.*

MATTHEW 6:22

“For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought before him. Since he did not have the money to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.

MATTHEW 18:23-25

So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, '*Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.*' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

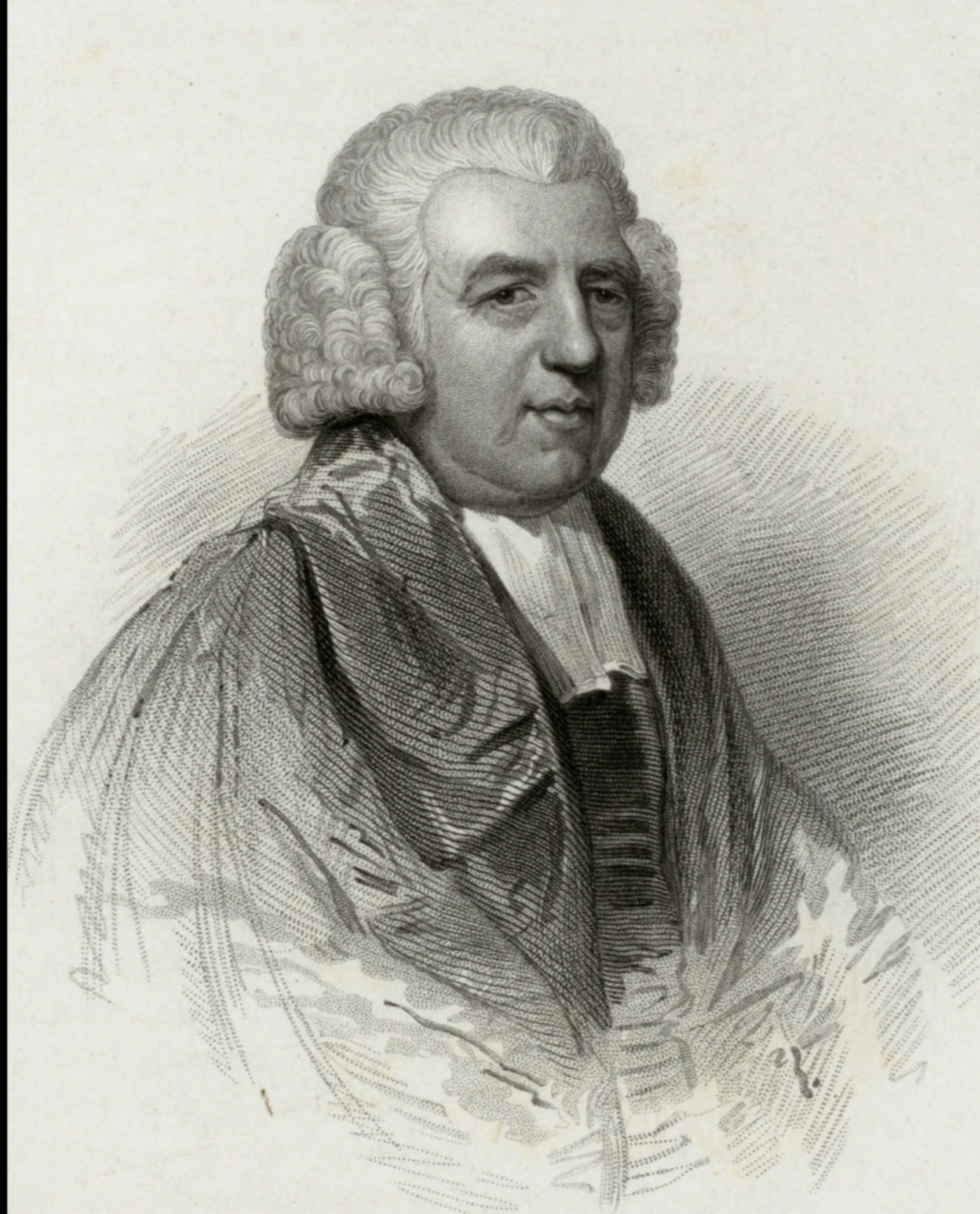
MATTHEW 18:26-27

The Christian life requires us to REMEMBER.

To remember where God found us.
To remember the patience He's shown us.
To remember how often we've needed
His forgiveness, provision, patience, grace, and mercy...

"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: ...that I am a great sinner... and that Christ is a great Savior!"

JOHN NEWTON // SONGWRITER/PASTOR



When we forget how much mercy we've received, it becomes easier to withhold mercy from others.

"...As we also have forgiven our debtors."

REMEMBER the mercy we've received...

RELEASE the debt we've been holding...

That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, *'Pay what you owe!'*

MATTHEW 18:28

At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, *'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'*

MATTHEW 18:29

But he wasn't willing. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed.

MATTHEW 18:30

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS *NOT*

FORGIVENESS DOES NOT MEAN APPROVAL.

- Forgiving someone doesn't mean you're saying what they did was okay.

FORGIVENESS DOES NOT MEAN FORGETTING.

- You don't have to pretend it never happened or minimize the pain it caused.

FORGIVENESS DOES NOT MEAN THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES.

- Someone can be forgiven and still need to take responsibility for their actions.

FORGIVENESS DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESTORE TRUST.

- Trust is rebuilt through honesty, accountability, repentance, and consistent change.
- Sometimes, for your safety and the safety of others, maintaining boundaries and distance is necessary.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS

Forgiveness means surrendering our personal demand for revenge and entrusting justice to God.

Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, *"Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,"* says the Lord.

ROMANS 12:19

"...As we also have forgiven our debtors."

REMEMBER the mercy we've received...

RELEASE the debt we've been holding...

REFLECT the heart of Our Heavenly Father...

When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, *'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'*

MATTHEW 18:31-33

"So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart."

MATTHEW 18:35

Jesus is warning us that a heart that persistently refuses to extend mercy reveals something deeply troubling about our relationship with God.

Genuine faith produces transformation.

And one of the ways that transformation becomes visible is through our willingness to forgive.

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BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

...someone who is **struggling to forgive** because they've been deeply wounded, and

...someone who has **hardened their heart** and decided they will not forgive.

Am I truly *struggling* with forgiveness or am I honestly *refusing* it?

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

EPHESIANS 4:31-32 (ESV)

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses... God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die
for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made
right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save
us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with
God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his
enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

ROMANS 5:8-10

"Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do."

LUKE 23:34

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 REMINDS US THAT…

**Jesus doesn't just *command* us to forgive…
He gives us HIS SPIRIT to help us
become people who forgive.**

The Forgiven are called to Forgive

What did you bring into Church this morning?

TWO INVITATIONS...

INVITATION #1: RELEASE THE DEBT...

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What would it look like to begin entrusting that pain to your Heavenly Father?

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What would it look like to begin entrusting that pain to your Heavenly Father?

INVITATION #2: RECEIVE THE MERCY OF JESUS...

Maybe you're realizing you've trespassed/sinned against someone and need to seek their forgiveness ... before you do, confess your sin against God + receive first Jesus' mercy and forgiveness for yourself (1 John 1:8-9)