**Forgiveness Series December 17, 2023**

**Forgive As You Have Been Forgiven**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

How often do I need to forgive someone?

* Seven times?
  + Shows grace **to the offender**
  + Seems to demonstrate patience and willingness to humbly grant forgiveness
* 70 x 7
  + Not literally 490 times
  + It means an **unlimited amount and on-going in nature**

The merciful king

* The king initially ordered his servant, wife, children, and all possessions be sold to repay part of the debt
  + The slave pleaded for mercy and the king relented and granted forgiveness of the massive debt
* Jesus relates the parable to the “kingdom of heaven”
  + Shows how our heavenly Father deals with His children who **ask for forgiveness**
  + As the king had compassion on his servant, so God has compassion on those who come to Him

The Unmerciful Servant

* 100 denarii is about 100 days wages
* Though the slave had been forgiven an unfathomable amount, he was unwilling to forgive one of his own debtors

The Penalty of Unforgiveness

* Other servants alerted the king to the grave injustice that was done to their fellow slave
  + The king had the unmerciful servant apprehended and made to appear before him
  + Justice was swift and punitive by the king
  + The merciless servant was called, “wicked,” demonstrating the seriousness of the offense

Forgive, As You Have Been Forgiven

* The parable of Jesus emphasizes the response to Peter’s question
  + Because God has great mercy and grace upon us, we must follow His example and **forgive in like manner**
  + The consequences of unforgiveness is punishment for deserved offenses

Steps to Asking for Forgiveness

1. Address everyone involved
2. Avoid If, But, and Maybe
3. Admit Specifically
4. Acknowledge the Hurt
5. Accept the Consequences
6. Alter Your Behavior
7. Ask for Forgiveness (and Allow Time)

* Ken Sande, The Peacemaker

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