



Seeking a Release From Wrongs

Keith Taylor

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Jesus clearly links the connection between our gaining forgiveness with our willingness to extend forgiveness.

Matthew 6 & Matthew 18:23-35

Parable of the Ungrateful debtor: Matthew 18:23-35

What we learn about God and our forgiveness:

1. God Forgives Generously

"You are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and full of unfailing love and mercy." Nehemiah 9:17b (NLT)

2. God Forgives Freely

"For all have sinned... Yet God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Jesus Christ, who has freed us by taking away our sins." Romans 3:23-24 (NLT)

3. God Forgives Completely

"He forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record that contained the charged against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross." Colossians 2:13b-14 (NLT)

What we learn about forgiveness of others:

What it is not:

- It does not mean to excuse or tolerate wrongdoing.
- It does not mean doing what the other person directs.
- It does not mean putting up with that which is not to be put up with.
- It does not mean that reconciliation is always possible.

What it means:

- Refusing to Retaliate
- Release Resentment
- Rehearse a Blessing, rather than the offense

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you... and you will have great reward." Luke 6:27-28,35 (GNT)