

“HE RESTORES MY SOUL - Part V” (Matt. 18:21-35)

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REVIEW/INTRO: God wants to restore your soul (Ps, 23:3)! In this series we’re covering 7 Transformational Principles for a Healthy Soul. So far, we have covered Identity & Repentance. This morning we’re going to cover Forgiveness.

I. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:21-35).

1. We’re commanded to forgive regardless of how many times we’ve sinned against (vv. 21-22).
 - A. Not every offense means we’ve been sinned against!
2. How forgiveness works in the kingdom (v. 23).
 - A. An unpayable debt (vv. 23-24).
3. The creditor was moved with compassion and forgave an unpayable debt when asked (vv. 25-27).
 - A. A significant but payable debt (vv. 28-29).
4. The Hypocrisy: This man who had been forgiven an unpayable debt refused to forgive a payable debt (30-31).
5. The Principle: those who’ve been shown compassion should show others compassion (vv. 32-33).
6. Unforgiveness is a luxury we can’t afford (vv. 34-35)!
 - A. Unforgiveness will bring torture to our soul!
 - B. Unforgiveness leads to not being forgiven (Mt. 6:14-15)!

II. Principles of Forgiveness & Reconciliation.

1. We’re commanded to forgive unconditionally.
 - A. Based on being forgiven (Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:31-32).
 - B. Forgiving is our responsibility!
2. Forgiveness is a choice, not an emotion.
3. Forgiveness is NOT: Denying, Minimizing, or Excusing the other person’s actions.
 - A. Forgiveness is letting it go – not continuing to hold it against the person (not pursuing justice or revenge).
4. Does Forgiving require Forgetting?
5. Does Forgiveness also include Reconciliation?
6. How can I Forgive? Choose. Declare. Trust. Grow. Pray.
7. Do I need to talk to the person I’m forgiving?

CONCLUSION: Is there anyone you need to forgive? Will you?