

FIREPROOF YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

"Practicing Forgiveness"

Matthew 18:21-35 (Pew Bible Page 695)

FORGIVENESS IS NOT EASY

"If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven...I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."
2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Matthew 18:21-35 The Unmerciful Servant and Principles of Forgiveness

1. Jesus does not like it when we KEEP SCORE
"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times" Matthew 18:22
2. Forgiveness means to SET ASIDE your anger
3. In this story...
One talent = 15 years' wages...he owed 150 years of debt
One denarii = 1 day's wage...he owed about 3 months debt
\$2,400,00 vs \$240
4. The King cares about how we TREAT OTHERS
5. Those who have been forgiven MUST FORGIVE
"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"His mercies are new every morning" Lamentations 3:23

WHY YOU SHOULD FORGIVE

1. SATAN
2. ME
3. I am not PERFECT
4. Because God, through Christ, has FORGIVEN ME

HOW YOU CAN FORGIVE

1. You make a **DECISION**
2. You say the **THE WORDS**
3. When you forgive, you **FORGIVE**
4. You forgive **COMPLETELY**
5. You forgive **REPEATEDLY**
6. Forgiveness does not mean **FORGETTING**
7. Forgiveness does not mean **TRUSTING**
Forgiveness must be granted, it cannot be earned
Trust cannot be granted, it must be earned

LOVE DARE CHALLENGE

Clinch one hand into a fist and hold it.
Is there someone you need to forgive?
The lack of forgiveness is what you are clutching right now.

Make a decision to release it.
Open your hand and quietly say out loud ... "I forgive you"