

Forgive And Be Set Free

Matthew 18: 21-35

February 5, 2023

Verse 21 - 22

How often do I have to forgive someone?

How do I forgive situations that are awful - abuse, murder, theft, torture, etc.?

You can't!

God can!

*The Holy Spirit must give you
the ability to do this*

**FORGIVENESS IS NOT A HUMAN THING –
IT'S A GOD THING!**

Forgiveness

doesn't excuse their actions.

Forgiveness

stops their actions from
destroying your heart.

Author Unknown



Jesus is saying the believer must be willing to forgive without limit

Forgiveness does not mean everything is okay

Forgiveness does not mean we absolve the person of consequences for their actions

Verse 23 - 27

A picture of God's mercy and forgiveness

The servant has a debt he cannot pay

The servant is released from his giant debt – **FORGIVEN!**

When we cry out for mercy, God forgives our giant debt, and the believer is **FREE!**

This is **SALVATION so great and free!**

Verse 28 - 30

**A picture of our sinful flesh
wanting payback!**

The flesh shows no mercy and no grace

**Although forgiven much, it demands
payback!**

Verse 31

Be sure your sin will find you out

Do not be fooled, *God sees all!*

He sees your heart!

Hebrews 4: 13

Proverbs 5: 22

Job 31: 4

NOTHING can be hidden
from God,
because He sees
everything.



Verse 32 - 34

The summons to be judged

There will be a day when every human
will be summoned to be judged

Romans 14: 11-12

*“And his master was angry and
delivered him to the torturers”*
(verse 34)

Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffered, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness.

Marianne Williamson

Forgiveness

is the key that
unlocks
the door of
resentment
and the
handcuffs
of hatred.

Corrie ten Boom

THE WORD FOR THE DAY



**Jesus wants
you to know:
*No forgiveness,
no freedom!***

**Giving it to Jesus
is the key to
your freedom!**

Freedom from a lifetime of anger and hatred,
trapped in *“loop think”*



Verse 35

If I refuse to forgive, the torturers await!!

We must forgive our brother or sister their trespasses

This is *not* an option; this is *not* an elective; this is not an “*if I feel like it*”

This is a must from God’s mouth to our ears and our hearts!


Forgive

Or be tortured *(never free, always bound by an event or person!)*

Jesus is saying to me:

**God has forgiven me an
immeasurable debt, *I must
forgive others!***

**The result of forgiving the Jesus way is
astounding!!**



Forgiveness is setting the
prisoner free, only to find out
that the prisoner was me.

Corrie ten Boom

quoteslancy

Closing thoughts on Forgiveness:

What is forgiveness?

“Aphiemi” = to send away, dismiss

What if I don't forgive?

“Unforgiveness imprisons, keeps pain alive, produces a bitter heart, opens the door to demonic oppression, hinders our fellowship with God. (Matthew 16: 14-15)” - John MacArthur

Roadblocks to forgiveness:

(Chuck Swindoll - "*Counseling Insights*")

- 1) The desire to take revenge, to pay back
A common flesh response – *they deserve it!!* – Romans 12: 21
- 2) The fear that forgiveness somehow communicates approval – *it does not!*

Forgiveness vs. Reconciliation:

Forgiveness does not mean that the relationship is restored to normal

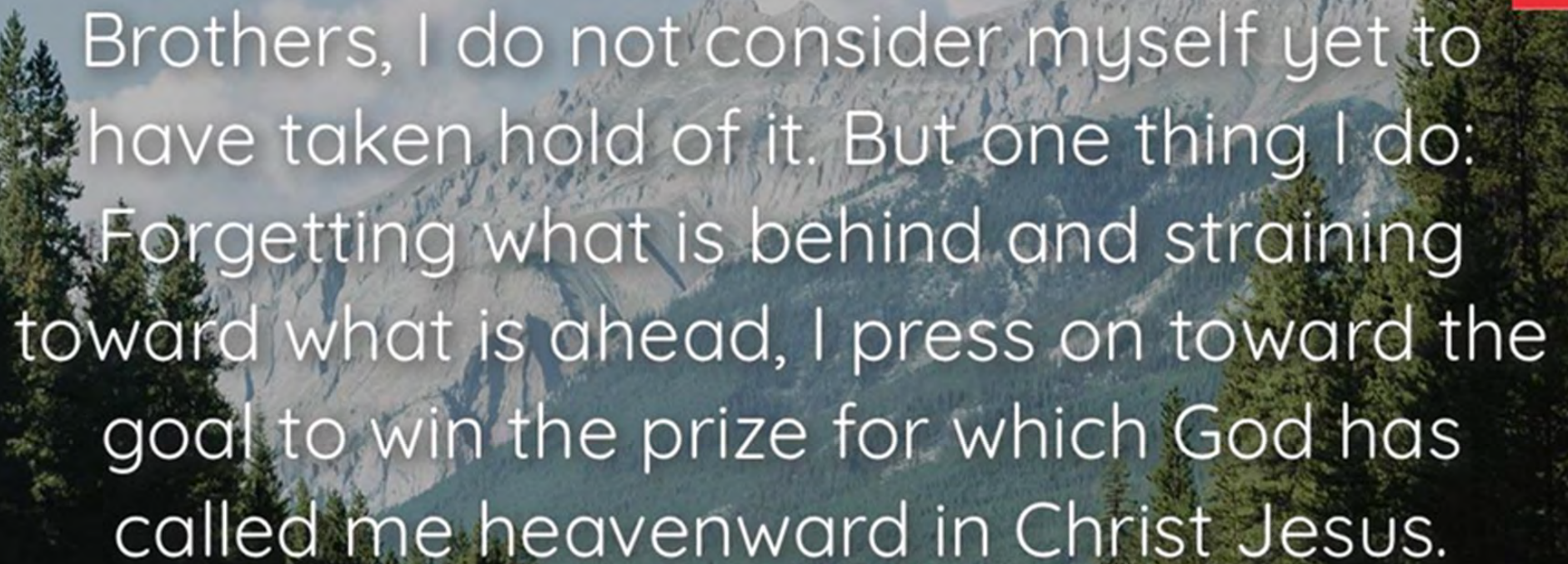
Reconciliation only occurs when there has been genuine repentance, with proven, ongoing change in behavior

This may take a considerable amount of time; this may or may not happen

God's desire is restored healthy relationships!

Satan's desire is destroyed relationships

Reconciliation is God's miracle!!



Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 NIV1984

No one ever said forgiveness is easy; it may be the most difficult thing you ever do!

FAST FACTS

Fast Facts: Corrie ten Boom

- **Known For:** Holocaust survivor who became a renowned Christian leader, known for her teachings on forgiveness
- **Occupation:** Watchmaker and writer
- **Born:** April 15, 1892 in Haarlem, the Netherlands
- **Died:** April 15, 1983 in Santa Ana, California
- **Published Works:** *The Hiding Place*, *In My Father's Place*, *Tramp for the Lord*
- **Notable Quote:** "Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."



Betsie, Nollie, and Corrie ten Boom in 1905.



**Corrie had to learn to forgive to be
used by God**

(video)

“To Forgive is to set a prisoner free
and to discover the prisoner was you.”

Corrie Ten Boom

FORGIVENESS IS OF THE HEART

FORGIVE AND BE SET FREE

THIS IS THE JESUS WAY!