

Series: **Conflict Resolution Series**  
Title: **Forgiveness Dynamics**  
Text: **Matthew 18:21-35**

Introduction:

## **Settling Accounts**

### **Matt. 18:23**

*“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.”*

### **The kingdom of heaven is compared to...**

- This is heaven’s way.
- This is heaven’s approach.
- Servants of God must abide by heaven’s way.
- The King will settle accounts.

### **Accounts**

A ledger of debt

One owes the debt.

One owns the debt.

The debt must be paid lest there be consequences to the debtor.

- PUD – unpaid – no power
- Phone bill – unpaid – no phone service
- Car payment – unpaid – the car is repoed
- This servant who owed the king a fortune begged for patience of the king.
  - Various thoughts on the amount – suffice it to say... it was a very large amount!

### **Matt 18:27**

*“And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.”*

### **5 Rs of Apology (Andrea Scarborough)**

(<https://nkfarms.ca/2021/07/13/im-sorry-the-5-rs-of-apology/>)

**regret**

**restitution**

**request forgiveness**

**responsibility**

**repentance**

## THE DYNAMIC OF DECLARATIONS

### Declared Dynamic Number One: God Is a Forgiving God

- This is the first understanding that we must hold onto.

#### **Psalm 86:5**

*For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.*

#### **Micah 7:18-19**

*Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

The story goes on...

The forgiven man is unforgiving (Matt. 18:28-30)

- The forgiven man pressed a debtor who owed him next to nothing.
- The man begged for patience, but was placed in prison until the small amount was paid.

#### **Matt. 18:32-33**

<sup>32</sup> *“Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’”*

- He was delivered to the jailors until his debt was paid.

### Declared Dynamic Number Two: We Are Commanded to Forgive

#### **Matt. 18:35**

*“So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”*

#### **Mark 11:25**

*“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”*

### **Luke 6:37**

*“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven...”*

## **Declared Dynamic Number Three: We Are to Continue to Forgive**

### **Matthew 18:21-22**

*<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”*

## **THE DYNAMIC OF DECISIONS**

### **Decision Dynamic Number One:**

#### **Forgiveness Is a Conscious Choice, Not An Emotional State**

You do not wait until you are ready.

We do not wait until we receive an apology.

We do not wait until we are asked for forgiveness.

You do not wait until your feelings align with the decision.

#### **WE DECIDE TO FORGIVE**

- Emotions and feeling must follow, and will in time.

### **Col 3:12-13**

*<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

- You put on compassionate hearts, kindness, meekness, and patience,
- You bear with one another,
- You must forgive.

#### **Forgiveness Is a Choice We Make Through Free Will**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Matt 6:12, 14-15**

*<sup>12</sup> “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

<sup>14</sup> *“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

- If you forgive...
- But if you do not forgive...

### **We Forgive In Persistent Faith Out of Obedience to God**

- This is against human nature.
- This is against our self- centered nature.
- God will change our hearts and heal over time.

#### **Phil 1:6**

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

- God is at work in each of us

### **Forgiveness Is Immediate; Healing Is A Process**

- It is immediate because it does not depend on emotions
- It is a process because you must continue to walk in forgiveness for a lifetime

#### **Rom 12:14**

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

- Jesus on the question: “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

### **Decision Dynamic Number Two**

### **Forgiveness Is For Personal Healing Regardless Of Relationship Healing**

#### **Healing with Boundaries**

#### **Matt 18: 15**

*“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”*

- If he doesn't go with two witness for intercession.
- If he refuses go to the church.
- If he refuses – separation.

## Healing from Brokenness

- Forgiving and forgetting
- Forgiveness is about setting someone free, and that person is you!
- A point of reference not a point of impact!

### Phil 3:12-14

*<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way...*

- I am not perfect.
- I forget what is behind.
- But I strain and press on...
  - To make it my own
  - Toward the goal
  - Toward the prize
  - Toward the upward call
  - Toward maturity

## Healing from Bitterness

- Naomi in the book of Ruth – “Call me Mara because the Lord has made my life bitter.”
- Jonah – “I am so angry I could die.”

Paul says to the church in Ephesus

### Eph. 4:31-32

*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

- Let it all be put away

### Heb. 12:15

*See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled...*

## Closing Verse

### John 10:10

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

## Prayer