



## The Mind Bender

Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

*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. <sup>23</sup> "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <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?" <sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."*

Forgiveness: Releasing others from the small offenses because  
God has released you from your massive offenses!

**Forgiveness is not:**

**1. A feeling to wait for but a command to obey!**

Luke 17:3-6 (NIV)

*So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. <sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." <sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."*

**2. Forgetting the hurt. (Genesis 8:1)**

- Forgiveness involves turning your focus to something else. (1 John 3:1)

**3. Removing the consequences.**

**4. Reconciliation.**

- We are called to forgive everyone but we may not be reconciled with everyone.

**Forgiveness is:**

**1. Refusing to seek my own revenge. (Romans 12:17-20)**

**2. Refusing to bring the offense up to them or to others anymore. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)**

**3. Refusing to be consumed by the past.**

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NIV)

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

**4. Praying for God's best in their lives.**