



Lessons for Life

THE RELATIONSHIP CHOICE

It's Your Choice – 6

February 11/12, 2012

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Matthew 5:7 (TEV) "Happy are those who are merciful to others."

Matthew 5:9 (TEV) "Happy are those who work for peace."

The Relationship Choice: *I evaluate all my relationships, offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me, and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.*

Matthew 18:21-35 (MSG)

"At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, 'Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?'

"Jesus replied, 'Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.'"

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market".

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'"

"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king."

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

I. The Foundation For Forgiveness - Because I have BEEN

forgiven, I am ABLE to forgive

The Father Who Longs To Forgive – Luke 15

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, bless his holy name." Psalm 103:1 (NIV)

II. The Fault of Forgiveness – The unforgiving becomes the unforgiven

"And forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us." Matthew 6:12 (NLT)

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

"But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." Mark 11:25 (NLT)

"Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. Stop criticizing others, or it will all come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37 (NLT)

"For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you." James 2:13 (NLT)

How do I become a forgiver?

1. Take the WOUND and nail it to the Cross
2. Be GRATEFUL to God
3. Begin TODAY

I Forgive _____