WEEK ONE

Matthew 18:21-35

Ephesians 2:1-10

**“Forgiving One Another”**

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another,

and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another;

even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

Colossians 3:12-13

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**Read Matthew 18:21-22**

What is the dictionary definition of forgive?

In what way does this definition agree with your definition? How does it differ?

Using the resources you have, what was the Rabbis’ tradition of forgiveness at this time? (See Amos 2:1-8)

What do you think Peter was thinking when he exceeded that traditional number?

What is Jesus’ expectation of forgiveness?

What is the significance of 70x7 in the Bible? (See Genesis 4:23-24; Jeremiah 29:10; Leviticus 25:2-5; Leviticus 26:33—35, 40-45; 2 Chronicles 36:20-21)

What do you think Jesus means should happen after forgiving 490 times?

What is He really saying by using this number?

Why are Christians expected to forgive an unlimited number of times?

What does this tell you about forgiveness?

Are we only called to forgive when our offender is repentant? (See Romans 5:8)

Which example of forgiveness throughout Scripture do you find most relatable? (See Genesis 45:4-8; Genesis 33:8-11; 1 Samuel 24:10-15; Luke 15:11-32;

John 8:1-11)

What is your biggest hindrance to forgiving others?

“It's important to understand that we can never forgive others, horizontally, if not for what Christ has already done for us, vertically. Not until we fully accept and appropriate God's infinite and complete forgiveness on our behalf can we carry out

the tough assignment of forgiving others.” Chuck Swindoll

**Read Matthew 18:23-35; Ephesians 2:1-10**

What is “the kingdom of heaven”?

Who do you think of when you read about the forgiving master? Why?

What traits does this master have that caused him to forgive the servant?

Was his debt completely forgiven? (See Psalm 103:11-14)

Has the servant done anything to deserve it?

How would you define compassion and mercy?

What is the difference between these traits?

Are compassion and mercy necessary in order to forgive others? Why?

What else do you need?

How does this compare to the way God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness is poured

out on you? (See Ephesians 2:1-10; Lamentations 3:22-23; Luke 6:36-37)

“The principle is clear. God has forgiven such a great debt, that any debt owed to us is absolutely insignificant in comparison. No man can possibly offend me to the extent that my sins have offended God. This principle must be applied in the little

things done to us, but also to the great things done unto us.” David Guzik

How does the debt of the first servant compare with the second?

What quality was the unforgiving servant lacking?

How important is forgiveness to the master?

Is Jesus saying that unforgiveness is the unpardonable sin? (See Matthew 12:30-37; Mark 3:28-30)

What do you think Jesus means in verse 35? (See James 2:13)

How important do you think forgiveness is to Jesus? Why?

Why does forgiveness matter?

“If God forgave our sins in the same way we forgave others, none of us would be forgiven. But after we have become children of God, because we have been forgiven,

we are to forgive.” J. Vernon McGee

What does forgiveness from the heart mean to you personally?

Does it mean that forgiveness is a feeling?

Do you have someone in your life who has wronged you, hurt you deeply but is not able or willing to repent, apologize, repay? What happens if you think of them in light of Ephesians 2:1-10? Does it change your heart about forgiving them? In what way?

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:35-38

When I stand before the throne

Dressed in beauty not my own;

When I see Thee as Thou art,

Love Thee with unsinning heart;

Then, Lord, shall I fully know—

Not till then—how much I owe.

C.H. Spurgeon