

# HAVE A FORGIVEN HEART.

*From The Lord To You*



Matthew 18:21 – then Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times? No, not seven times but seventy times seven. Jesus then continues with the parable of the unforgiving servant to teach us about forgiveness.

I am tempted to believe that Peter felt he had come out with a reasonable number of times to forgive someone because in their tradition people were usually punished on their third account of wrong doing after initial reprisals. But then Jesus gives him a huge figure that reasonable one cannot keep track and elaborates further with the parable of the unforgiving servant who after he has been forgiven of his huge debt by the king decided not to forgive the debts of his colleague who owed him a lesser amount. The king hears of this and have him thrown into jail until he pays the last penny mainly because he refused to forgive the debts of his colleague. In the verse 35 Jesus concludes by saying “that is how my father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart”.

Surely, true forgiveness requires not remembering the wrongs anymore. Once there's a count of the wrong doing then you have not really forgiven the individual. In fairness, we can say there is no limit to the number of times to forgive if we forgive with as much grace as we do the first time. We are only capable of this type of forgiving spirit only if the Holy Spirit of God lives in us for it's the Spirit that provides us with the ability to offer forgiveness over and over again just as God forgives us over and over again.

Proverbs 10:12 says “hate stirs up trouble, but love over looks all offences“. Every time you forgive, you disappoint the devil and free yourself of any pain. Thereby deepening the bond of love between mankind.

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Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 4:32 to be kind and tender – hearted to one another, and forgive one another as God has forgiven you through Christ Jesus. The numerous sins we commit are forgiven by God, why then do we find it difficult to forgive the wrongs people do against us. We are just behaving like the unforgiving servant.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:12 when teaching us how to pray; “forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us”. Certainly instructing us to forgive one another. It’s a clause which tells us that if we do not forgive the wrongs of our fellow humans then we shouldn’t expect God to forgive us our wrongs as simple as ABC.

Its written clearly in the verses 14 and 15 “if you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your father will not forgive the wrongs you have done”.

Forgiveness should be abundant, overflowing and available to all. Sometimes we look at the wrongs done against us and quantify it, we tend to think that the person is never worth forgiveness but if we compare it to what we do against the father, then surely we need to pray for a forgiving heart to forgive because our pain can never be compared to the price Jesus paid for our sins.

God expects us to live in unity and forgive one another the wrongs we do so that we can merit forgiveness from him as well.

You can be the best preacher of God’s word, but if you don’t forgive one another then don’t expect forgiveness form God.

Matthew 5:23-24 ”so if you are about to offer gifts to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift”.

So then, my dear brothers and sisters let us always pray for a forgiving heart and the grace to forgive one another. By so doing God in his divine mercy will also forgive us of our wrong doings.

Peace be with you.

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