

RLC graphic

Matthew 7:24-29

“Therefore, everyone who **hears** these words of Mine and **acts** on them will be like a wise man who built his house **on the rock** ... ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were **astonished** at His teaching, ²⁹ because He was teaching ... like One who had **authority** ...

{First slide comes up; then bullet points come up separately}

DIFFICULT YOKE: Our PAINFUL past

- Hurt; disappointed; let down; wounded
- Self-pity; bitterness; resentment
- Revenge? Get even?
- Shame; regret; embarrassed

The **calling** ahead of us is greater than the **offenses** that are behind us.

Matthew 6:15 (CSB)

But if you don't **forgive** others, your Father will **not** forgive your offenses.

Colossians 2:13-14 (JB Ph)

God has now made [you] to share **in** the very life of Christ! He has **forgiven you** all your sins: Christ has **utterly wiped out** the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has **completely annulled** it by nailing it over His own head on the cross.

{bullet points come up one at a time}

Forgiving feels harder than holding onto a grudge, pain, regret, and/or shame.

WHY?

- We naturally limit grace.
- We have “justice” concerns.
- We fear a sequel.
- We confuse forgiveness and reconciliation.
- We have integrated “it” into our identity.

Matthew 18:21

Then Peter approached Him and asked, “Lord, how many times must I **forgive** my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as **seven** times?”

Matthew 18:22-23a

“I tell you, not as many as seven,” Jesus replied, “but **seventy times seven**.
²³“For this reason, the **kingdom of heaven** can be compared to a king who wanted to **settle accounts** with his servants.

{Same as from Part 3 of *Different*}
IMAGE OF 2 CIRCLES; KINGDOMS

How “accounts” are settled (~forgiveness) in the Kingdom is different than how they are handled outside the Kingdom.

Matthew 18:24-27

When he began to settle accounts, one who owed **ten thousand** talents was brought before him. ²⁵ Since he did not have the money to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.

²⁶“At this, the servant fell facedown before him and said, ‘Be **patient** with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ Then the master of that servant had **compassion**, **released him**, and **forgave him** the loan.

{*come up one at a time*}

Points of Emphasis:

- **Compassion**
- **Unilateral action**
- **Total forgiveness (no limits!)**

Colossians 2:13-14 (JB Ph)

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Matthew 18:28-31

“That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him **a hundred** denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, ‘Pay what you owe!’

²⁹“At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he **wasn’t willing**. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened.

{*come up one at a time*}

Points of Emphasis:

- **Our debt to God >>> any debt owed to us = insignificant in comparison**
- **“wasn’t willing” = conscious choice to harden his ‘heart’**

- Shows indifference

Matthew 18:32-34

Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, ‘You **wicked** servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Shouldn’t you also have had **mercy** on your fellow servant, **as I had mercy on you?**’ ³⁴ And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed.

The servant viewed the debt-debtor issue not as **relational** but **transactional**; therefore, he was never **transformed**.

Matthew 18:35

So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your **heart**.”

SOUL DIAGRAM (DALLAS WILLARD) □ SAME AS LAST WEEK

--make sure this is very clear.

<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/9b/ab/9a/9bab9adca94985e2f3ec24dd68c60567.jpg>

The willingness and ability to show mercy, give grace, and extend forgiveness are **evidence** of citizenship in the Kingdom, not **requirements**.

{come up one at a time}

Receiving Complete & Total Forgiveness:

- Reject the “good” person myth ...
- Recognize God as the only rightful judge ...
- Humble yourself and receive His forgiveness, verdict, and life!
- Never get over it!!

Be more familiar with **our own sinfulness** and the cost of our own **salvation** than the **shortcomings** of others.

The joy of being totally forgiven, eternally loved, & part of the Kingdom >>> pain of being sinned against.

{come up one at a time}

Forgiving Others:

- Resist **revenge** & release (vs. rehearse) **hurt & resentment**
- **Refuse** to celebrate (or wish for) their misfortune
- Reciprocate **God’s grace** to them
 - Protect their dignity; do not speak ill or spread negativity
 - Bless them if possible
- Receive **empathy** from the Lord

Colossians 3:13 (TLB)

Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.