



## Forgiveness Is The Way To Real Freedom

(December 8, 2014)

I have often wondered why Jesus told his disciples to forgive seventy times seven, when they asked him if seven was enough.

**Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.** Matthew 18: 21-22

What Jesus is talking about here is a lifestyle of forgiving, not really about forgiving 490 times a day.

Jesus proceeded to tell his disciples this parable:

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses. Matthew 18:23-35

***This is a deep secret to living a healthy and free life, living a life style of forgiveness, and to remember that without forgiving others, the Father will not forgive us but will deliver us to the tormentors.***

It is, therefore, important not only to forgive others but also to forgive oneself, which can sometimes be even more challenging.

**However, forgiving and forgiveness is the very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and is not optional.**

God is a lover and a forgiver of sinners, and like Father like children. ***Because as He is so are we in this world.*** (1 John 4:17)

***Forgiveness brings healing because it takes the torment out of the soul of the person that forgives. Healing really starts with the Word of forgiveness in the heart and in the soul, and it brings healing to all our flesh.*** (Proverbs 4:22-23)

**We can also see this truth presented in Mark 2:9-12. Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."** So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Forgiving and forgiveness releases our faith and makes it work when we speak to the mountains as Jesus told us in Mark 11:22-26:

And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**

***Believe me, forgiving and forgiveness leads to real healing, real faith, and real freedom, just as Jesus said. Hallelujah!***