

**Let us Forgive
as God has Forgiven us.**

Gospel of Matthew 18:21-35

UNITED
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Introduction

- Apostle Paul says in Eph. 4:32 “ Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- He repeats the same thought in Col. 3:13.

Introduction

- Our Lord taught us in the prayer in Matt. 6:12 “ And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
- Question is how has God forgiven us? Let us look at some of those principles in this parable and other Biblical passages.

Introduction

- True forgiveness happens, when we understand the weaknesses of others.
- We are ready to pay for their offenses.
- We forget the wrong done to us.
- And, we continue to seek the fellowship of the one, who has offended us.

We should understand the weaknesses of others.

- The king who forgave the large sum of debt of his servant understood his problem. Matt.18:27
- God forgives us because He is able to empathize with us. Psalm 103:10-14 and Heb. 4:15.

We should understand the weaknesses of others.

- I believe, true forgiveness happens when we try to understand other person's point of view. But understanding alone is not forgiveness. It is a first step.
- Forgiveness happen when we are willing to pay the offense committed against us.

We Should be willing to pay the offense.

- Now, this is difficult step but that is how God has forgiven us.
- This is what King also did in this story. He took the loss. He forgave the debt of his servant.
- Let us see what God did for us in the following passages. 2 Cor. 5:19; 1Pe. 2:24.

We Should be willing to pay the offense.

- Not only God understands our weakness, He also paid for our offenses. Jesus died for the sins of whole humanity. Roman 5:8 says “ **But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”

We Should forget the wrong.

- This point is not clear in our story but we know, when God forgives us, He does not put our previous sins in our account.
- Let us look in following Bible verses. Jeremiah 31:34; Isaiah 43:25 and Hebrews 10:17.

We Should forget the wrong.

- When we truly forgive, wrong will not dominate our thoughts any more.
- Second, the offense will not hurt anymore.
- Third, we will be able to treat the offender as though the offense never happened.

We Should seek the fellowship.

- True forgiveness happens when we continue to have fellowship with the one to whom we have forgiven.
- Example of Jesus and Peter.
- Roman 5:10; Matt 18:15 and 5:23-24, speaks about this truth.

CONCLUSION

- Forgiveness is a need of every human being.
- I believe, this is one medicine whose overdose will not kill the person. In low dose it is a poison but in high dose, it works as multivitamins.
- Story of Jean Valjean

CONCLUSION

- Let us start forgiving one another as God has forgiven us in Christ Jesus.
- Let us try to understand others.
- Let us be willing to pay the offenses of others.
- Let us forget the wrong done to us.

CONCLUSION

- Let us continue to seek fellowship of those who has forgiven us and to whom, we have forgiven.

LET US START DOING THIS RIGHT NOW.