



April 16, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Matthew 18:21-35 | “Unlimited Forgiveness”

Scripture References

Matthew 18:21–35
Psalm 103:8–14
Psalm 86:5–8
Isaiah 38:17; 43:25
Micah 7:18–20
Colossians 3:12–13
Luke 17:3–4

Study Questions

1. In your own words, define “forgiveness.” Why is it often so hard to forgive others? Can you identify the one person you are having difficulty forgiving?
2. How have you been guilty of keeping count of offenses against you (18:21)? What does it mean that, “[Love] keeps no record of wrongs” (1 Cor 13:5, NIV)? How can you practice *unlimited* forgiveness (18:22)?
3. In your own words, define “grace.” When have you been the recipient of extravagant grace from another person (18:23–27)? When have you extended such grace to someone else? How did each experience make you feel?
4. Why is it wrong for a Christian to say: “I’ll never forgive that offense or that person” (18:28–30)? How does God’s forgiveness of your sins help you forgive others? Who do you need to forgive right now?
5. How should the unrepentant, unforgiving believer be warned (18:31–35)? How should we interact with believers who refuse to forgive? How can we challenge them to trust in God’s providence and release their bitterness (Hebrews 12:15)?

Recommended Reading

Chris Brauns, *Unpacking Forgiveness: Biblical Answers for Complex Questions and Deep Wounds* (Crossway, 2008)
Tim Keller, *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* (Viking, 2022)
Erwin W. Lutzer, *When You’ve Been Wronged: Moving from Bitterness to Forgiveness* (Moody, 2007)



April 23, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Matthew 6:12-15 | “Freed to Forgive”

Sermon Application Review from Matthew 18:21–35

How have you rejoiced in God’s unlimited forgiveness this past week?
Did you complete your handwritten list of those you have chosen to forgive?

Scripture References

Matthew 6:12, 14–15
Mark 11:20–25
Ephesians 1:7; 4:26, 32
Colossians 1:13–14; 2:13–14; 3:12–14
1 John 1:5–2:2
Hebrews 12:4–13
1 Peter 2:21–23

Study Questions

1. How often do you pray the Lord’s prayer or a similar prayer outline (6:9–15)? How well do you grasp God’s vast forgiveness? What role does receiving God’s forgiveness play in your prayers?
2. What role does extending forgiveness to others play in your prayers (6:12, 14–15)? What aspects of forgiving others do you find most difficult? Why? Can you think of any wrong that would be impossible for you to forgive? Explain.
3. Have you ever had someone refuse to forgive you? What do you think was the reason for that refusal? How did you respond? Did time eventually heal the wound for either of you? Why or why not? How have you processed recurring bitterness and anger toward someone after you have chosen to forgive them?
4. What is one example, past or present, of bitterness in your life? In what ways did you choose to hold on to that offense? How did you eventually release it to the Lord?
5. How can you truly forgive someone when you don’t feel like forgiving? What are the consequences of unforgiveness to your overall well-being? If you knew you only had twenty-four hours to live, who would you forgive or ask forgiveness from? What practical steps can you take in order to forgive so you can begin enjoying the benefits of God’s forgiveness?

Recommended Reading

Wendell E. Miller, *Forgiveness: The Power and the Puzzles* (ClearBrook, 1994)
Gary Inrig, *Forgiveness: Discover the Power and Reality of Authentic Christian Forgiveness* (Discovery House, 2005)
F. LeRon Shults and Steven J. Sandage, *Faces of Forgiveness: Searching for Wholeness and Salvation* (Baker Academic, 2003)



April 30, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Luke 17:1-6 | “Faith-Filled Forgiveness”

Sermon Application Review from Matthew 6:12–15

How did you reclaim God’s promise to forgive all of your sins?

Who did you forgive out of sheer obedience to the Lord?

Scripture References

Luke 17:1–6

1 Corinthians 8:12–13

James 5:19–20

Galatians 6:1–2

Colossians 3:12–14

Matthew 5:21–26

Matthew 18:15–17

Study Questions

1. How might a believer cause someone else to stumble in their spiritual life (17:1)? What things in your life might cause Jesus to say, “Be on guard!” (17:3a)? How will you repent of these sins?
2. What is your typical approach to conflict (17:3–4)? Are you more inclined to be too confrontational or not confrontational enough? Describe a conflict that worked out particularly well. How do you know when to overlook an offense (Proverbs 19:11)?
3. How do you respond when another person asks you to forgive him or her (17:3–4)? In what ways are you tempted to be suspicious or cynical? Can you think of a time recently where you lacked humility and this caused tension or conflict in a relationship? What did you do to correct your behavior? If repentance is a prerequisite of forgiveness, how should you respond to someone who appears unrepentant?
4. Discuss the damage that results from an unforgiving attitude. In what ways do you find it difficult to request forgiveness? How has God helped you either seek or offer forgiveness to someone? Is there anyone with whom you have unresolved issues? What can you do to seek reconciliation?
5. How do faith and forgiveness tie together (17:5–6)? What can you do to cultivate your faith? How can you encourage those who feel they don’t have the faith necessary to expect great things from God (17:6)?

Recommended Reading

L. Gregory Jones, *Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis* (Eerdmans, 1995)

Ronald Dunn, *Surviving Friendly Fire: How to Respond When You’re Hurt by Someone You Trust* (Thomas Nelson, 2001)

Kenneth C. Newberger, *Hope in the Face of Conflict: Making Peace with Others the Way God Makes Peace with Us* (Three Sons, 2011)



May 7, 2023 | Pastor Tanner Huss

Luke 6:27-36 | *Fight, Flight, or Forgive*

Sermon Application Review from Luke 17:1-6

How did you respond to a conflict this past week in light of last week's sermon?

How did you step out in faith to forgive someone this past week?

Scripture References

Luke 6:27-36

Leviticus 19:17-18, 33-34

Psalms 111:4-9

Matthew 5:38-48

Acts 7:54-60

Romans 12:17-21

1 Peter 2:18-25

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' command to "love your enemies" relate to our natural instincts when faced with threat of harm (6:27a)? What is the most difficult aspect of loving those who have hurt us, intend to hurt us, or whose views or actions threaten our way of life?
2. Give an example of a time when you have returned hate with doing good, curse with seeking God's favor for that person, or abuse with prayer for that person's welfare (6:27b-28). How did you feel afterward? How did you see God work in that situation?
3. What do you think about this statement about "turning the other cheek:" "Love is available, vulnerable, and subject to repeated abuse"? Is this a good summary of Jesus' illustrations in Luke 6:29-30? Why or why not? How do Jesus (Luke 24:34), Stephen (Luke 7:60), and Paul (Acts 14:19-22; 16:22-40) set an example of the kind of love that ministers at the risk of increasing persecution?
4. How does the context of love for enemies shape how we understand the Golden Rule (6:31)? How is the treating others the way you want to be treated different than treating others well so they will treat you well (6:32-34)? Where do you see room to grow personally in loving others without expectation of return?
5. How does God's love, freely given to the good and evil, free us to love freely and fully without expecting any return (6:35)? If we were to love like this, how would it effect our witness to our world? What is the next step God is calling you to take toward loving your enemies like this?

Recommended Reading

John Piper, *Love Your Enemies* (Crossway, [1979] 2012), available for free download at desiringgod.com

Russell Moore, *Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel* (B&H, 2015)



May 14, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Luke 7:36-50 | “The Fragrance of Forgiveness”

Sermon Application Review from Luke 6:27–33

How did you love an enemy this past week?
How did you exercise God’s mercy and do good?

Scripture References

Luke 7:36–50
Luke 5:27–32
Luke 18:9–14
Matthew 22:37–40
Romans 5:6–8
1 John 4:15–19
2 Corinthians 5:14–15

Study Questions

1. When have you observed grateful and heartfelt worship (Luke 7:37–38)? How have you personally offered such worship to Christ? In what ways is your worship heartfelt and expressive? To what extent should love for the Lord be emotional? How do feelings relate to faith?
2. How are you guilty of looking down on “sinful people” (Luke 7:39)? What judgments have you made against others? How can you correct this behavior? Who do you presently know that needs forgiveness and grace? How do you see your same need for forgiveness and grace? How can you grapple with your sin on a deeper level?
3. What does it take to be forgiven by God (Luke 7:41–46)? Do you feel forgiven? Why or why not? Have you been forgiven much or little (Luke 7:47)? Has there ever been a time when you have experienced great forgiveness by God? How did you encounter His unconditional love and grace?
4. How grateful are you for the gift of salvation (Luke 7:47–48)? In what ways have you expressed your gratitude to God and the Lord Jesus? Is it difficult to consistently express gratitude for all Jesus has done for you? Why or why not? How can you increase an attitude of gratitude?
5. Must a person be deeply convicted of sin in order to receive salvation? How can you help non-Christians see their great need for forgiveness from a holy and righteous God? How can you communicate the necessity of faith to sinners in need of a Savior?

Recommended Reading

Stephen Hance, ed. *Forgiveness in Practice* (Jessica Kingsley, 2019)
Anthony Bash, *Just Forgiveness: Exploring the Bible, Weighing the Issues* (SPCK, 2011)
Anthony Bash, *Forgiveness: A Theology* (Cascade, 2015)
Anthony Bash, *Remorse: A Christian Perspective* (Cascade, 2020)