

Forgiving From My Heart

Storyteller #11

Tim Gill - June 21, 2015

“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” **Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)**

Why should I forgive others?

1. Because God forgives me. (v.23-27)

“...the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”

Matthew 18:23-27 (NIV)

Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13 (NCV)

“...‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’”

Matthew 18:32-33 (NIV)

2. Because God will not forgive me if I’m unforgiving. (v.32-35)

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Matthew 18:32-35 (NIV)

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

How do I develop a forgiving heart?

1. I appreciate God’s forgiveness.

Forgive each other the same as God forgave you through Christ.
Ephesians 4:32 (ERV)

2. I resist the urge to get even.

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV)

Dear friends, don’t try to get even. Let God take revenge. In the Scriptures the Lord says, “I am the one to take revenge and pay them back.”

Romans 12:19 (CEV)

3. I treat others with grace.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

4. I grieve when those who hurt me fall.

Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice...

Proverbs 24:17 (NIV)

5. I pray for those who hurt me.

“...Whenever you pray, forgive anything you have against anyone. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your failures.”

Mark 11:25 (GW)

“...Ask God to bless the people who ask for bad things to happen to you. Pray for the people who are mean to you.”

Luke 6:28 (ERV)

6. I seek reconciliation.

Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

Romans 12:18 (GNT)

7. I serve them in their distress.

“Whenever you come across your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering loose, be sure to take it back to him.”

Exodus 23:4 (GW)