

the **FORCE** of
FORGIVENESS


matthew 6:14,15



BECOMING FREE TO FORGIVE OTHERS

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- The attitude in Christ that we want to learn is the mindset of forgiveness.
- Jesus was so willing to forgive even those who crucified Him. ***Luke 23:34***
- Let us seek to have the force of forgiveness in our hearts to be like Jesus.

A silhouette illustration of a mountain range in shades of blue. In the foreground, a person stands with arms raised in a gesture of praise or triumph. Behind them, several other figures are silhouetted against the sky, standing on the peaks of the mountains.

BECOMING FREE TO FORGIVE OTHERS

The Forgiving Life Is the Forgiven Life!

- The Divine Dimension:
 - It's the gracious act of God by which we're saved from spiritual death to life through the sacrifice of Jesus. ***Ephesians 1:7***
 - It's through the divine act of God's grace that true believers are released from the accountable for sins they confess and forsake. ***Acts 8:22***



The Forgiven Life Is the Forgiving Life!

- The Human Dimension:
 - Forgiveness is that act and attitude toward those who have wronged us which restores relationships and fellowship.
 - A firm condition of receiving God's forgiveness is the willingness to forgive others.

Matthew 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-35



The Cross Is Forgiveness:

- It is the basis for Christianity.
 - His blood was shed for forgiveness. ***Mt. 26:28***
 - His message is forgiveness. ***Luke 24:46-47***
 - Belief in Him brings forgiveness. ***Acts 10:43***
 - This forgiveness brings salvation. ***1 Cor. 1:18***
 - The crux is Jesus and His cross! ***1 Cor. 2:2***



Jesus and His People Are About Forgiveness

- Jesus is all about it. ***Eph. 1:7*** *Amazing grace!*
- His people ought to be about forgiveness too! ***Colossians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14***
 - We ought to love one another. ***1 Jn. 4:6-11***
 - Develop the Christ-like spirit. ***Ephesians 4:32***



Lessons from the Prodigal Son

- The parable was directed toward the scribes and Pharisees. **Lk. 15:2**
- The older brother's disposition: **vv. 28-30**
 - He had the big “I” complex. *Boasted of himself and his virtue, complained of his father, was irritable towards his brother.*
 - *Attitudes of pride (better than you), comparing, complaining, and resentment prevent YOUR forgiveness! **Jas. 4:6; Ephesians 4:31***



Lessons from the Prodigal Son

- The Father's disposition toward the oldest son. **Luke 15:28-32**
 - He came out when the son would not go into the house.
 - Very controlled, patient, pleading.
 - He knew that his oldest son needed to understand some things that his envy blinded him to. **Titus 3:3**



Lessons from the Prodigal Son

- The Father's disposition toward the oldest son.
 - His love was evident towards this sour, irritable son. He encouraged him to come in. **v. 28**
 - He reassured His love for him. **v. 31**
 - He gives him good reason for the joyous celebration. **v. 32**



Power To Forgive

- Seek to reconcile as the Father did. ***Lk. 15***
 - Be ready to welcome back the prodigal when he or she comes come back to the Father.
 - Be patient with the older brother who is blinded with envy. Explain to him the value preciousness and necessity of the younger sibling's return. ***Mt. 16:26***



See How Forgiveness Is Truly Our Family's Business!

- If you're like the prodigal, do like the prodigal. Come back home brother!
Lk. 15:20-24
- If you're like the older brother, allow the Father's teachings to erase your blindness back to proper VISION!
- If we're faithful children, we'll be with God forever! All that is His is ours. ***Romans 8:17***
– ***So, always be ready to forgive!***

Jesus' Plan For Your Forgiveness...

- To be forgiven of sins and become a Christian requires us to obey Jesus' plan.
 - Hear the gospel... **John 6:45**
 - Believe the gospel... **Mark 16:16**
 - Repent of sin... **Acts 2:38; 3:19**
 - Confess Jesus... **Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10**
 - Baptism into Christ... **Rom. 6:3-6**