

KEY WORD

- **Forgiveness:** a decisive action that involves pardoning an offender; Greek translation: “to let go”
- **Reconciliation:** the process of two parties coming to peace with each other after becoming estranged; the end of the estrangement between God and humanity that is caused by original sin

SCRIPTURE

PRIMARY TEXT:

Matthew 18:21-35

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT:

Matthew 5:23-26, Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Ephesians 2:13-22, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

OBSERVATION AND APPLICATIONS

- Is it hard for you to say I'm sorry? Why or why not?

- What is the connection between our pride and unforgiveness?

- Read Matthew 18:21-35.
 - Identify the people in this parable. Which person do you relate to the most, and how does this influence the way you understand the story?

- What are some ways you tend to express yourself when you are holding a grudge or harboring unforgiveness against someone?

- How does Jesus' teaching on forgiveness challenge these expressions?

- Read Matthew 18:34.
 - What are some ways we are tortured due to unforgiveness in our own heart?

- Read Matthew 18:35.
 - According to this verse, where does sincere forgiveness come from?

- What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?

- Does forgiveness seem more attainable apart from reconciliation?

PRAYER

Lord, please help me to have the courage to forgive as You have forgiven me. Thank you for the grace and forgiveness You have shown me. Help me to extend that to others freely. Give me clarity where I have confused reconciliation and forgiveness in relationships and help me to find freedom from the torture of unforgiveness in my heart.

RESOURCES

-  [Forgiving What You Can't Forget by Lysa TerKeurst](#)

SCRIPTURE

Write which passage of scripture you are reading.

OBSERVATION

What is this text saying? What is the context? How does it fit with the verses before and after it? Are there any commands or instructions?

APPLICATION

How can you apply this verse to your life? What does this mean today? What is God saying to you?

PRAYER

Respond to the passage in prayer. Ask God to help you apply this truth to your life and spend some time listening to what He may be telling you.
