



Key Scriptures

Mat 18:24-35 NASB "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. (25) "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. (26) "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' (27) "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. (28) "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' (29) "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' (30) "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. (31) "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. (32) "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. (33) 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' (34) "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. (35) "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Mat 18:15-17 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** (17) "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector..

The Big Point:

The big picture: Every time we are hurt by other people two paths are opened to us. The path the enemy has planned leads to the torturous life of unforgiveness which keeps the pain alive perpetually. The path God has made available to us leads to healing and fellowship with Him. Choosing to forgive empowers us in the conflict and transfers responsibility for justice to God.

Important points from the message:

- Jesus did not promise a trouble-free life, he promised He would be with us.
- We have to decide if we want to move past the hurt or let it define us.
- Surrender the right to toxic emotions.
- Holy Spirit will empower you to obey the commands of Jesus.

Questions that may get your group talking.

- What toxic emotions are running free today?
- What do you think about tattoo theology? (Things that are popular sayings but are not actually in the Bible)
- What emotion does anger cover well?

Questions to get your group thinking:

- Are there areas of your life that you have "dropped anchor" and not moved on from?
- What does anger hide in your life?
- How would repentance and forgiveness change our country?

Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Be aware of your anger and ask Holy Spirit what it is hiding.
- Be aware of pain in other people that is masked by anger.