

## What Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness

*Forgive* NT:863

\*aphiemi (af-ee'-ay-mee); from NT:575 and hiemi (to send; an intens. form of eimi, to go); to send forth, in various applications (as follow):

KJV - cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up. Via Strong" Exhaustive Concordance

\*Webster's - *Forgive*: to cease to feel resentment against (an offender); PARDON

### Matt 18:21-35

*21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"*

*22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

*23 "Therefore, 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 talents ( \$4,500,000,000) 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 "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.*

*28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii (a day's wage - \$96). He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.*

*29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'*

*30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.*

*32 "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 turned 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 from your heart." NIV*

## **Christ Followers are Ambassadors of Reconciliation**

(Scripture References from the NIV Translation)

### **Matt 5:9**

*9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.*

### **Matt 6:14-15**

*14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

### **Mark 11:24-25**

*24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

### **Luke 17:3-4**

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*3 So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."*

### **2 Cor 5:16-21**

*16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### **Col 3:12-14**

*12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

In summary "Biblical forgiveness" is an act of the will (not a feeling) whereby I agree to embrace the consequences of another's sin and not hold it against that person. My willingness to *forgive* stems from my gratitude for Jesus' incredible sacrifice on the cross where He paid the full penalty for my sin and is manifest in my determination to no longer speak of the offense or dwell on the offense in my thoughts.

