

July 21, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Col. 3:13 *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the LORD forgave you. (NIV)*

Forgiveness. Let that word stand alone for just a moment in your mind. FORGIVENESS. This is perhaps the most treasured word in our vocabulary. There is such a weight lifted through forgiveness. Jesus used an amazing parable to teach this word to His disciples. **Mt. 18:23-35** *“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 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. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (NIV)*

Let us be people of forgiveness, because we are never more like the LORD than when we forgive. **Mt. 6:14** *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. (NIV)*

Dear Father, why are we so slow to forgive when You were so ready to forgive us? Take away the pride from our hearts and call us to a life of forgiveness. You have completely blotted out our sin. In the same way, help us to forgive others. In Jesus Name, Amen