

Forgiveness: Who Is It For?



SISTERS MANTRA

There's nothing too hard for God.

I am a daughter of the King.

God sees me!

He has great plans for me!

I will strive to live as a Christian should.

I will inspire and encourage my sisters to do
the same.





Today we will:

- Understand the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation
 - Identify barriers to forgiveness
 - Learn how forgiveness leads to emotional and spiritual freedom
 - Be encouraged to release past hurts to God
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A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a light-colored rug in a modern living room. She is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The room features a grey sofa, a wooden dining table with a white chair, and a large window looking out onto a balcony with a potted plant.

Story Time

- Is there someone you still feel hurt or resentment toward?
- How has holding onto that hurt affected you?
- What makes forgiveness difficult in real life?

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35)

1. The Question and the Answer (vv. 21-22)

- The Question: Peter asks Jesus how many times he must forgive a brother who sins against him, offering a seemingly generous "seven times".
- The Answer: Jesus responds, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (or "seventy times seven" in some translations. This means forgiveness should be uncountable and practically limitless.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35)

2. The Parable of the King and the Servant (vv. 23-30)

The Immeasurable Debt: A king begins settling accounts and is brought a servant who owes him 10,000 talents—an astronomically impossible debt (equivalent to billions of dollars today).

The Forgiveness: Unable to pay, the servant begs for patience, and the master forgives the entire massive debt out of compassion.

The Hypocrisy: This same forgiven servant immediately finds a fellow servant who owes him a very small amount (about 100 denarii, or a few months' wages). He chokes him and throws him in prison when he cannot pay.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35)



3. The Repercussions (vv. 31-35)

The Master's Anger: The other servants report this injustice to the king. The king summons the wicked servant, pointing out the immense mercy he was shown, and condemns him to prison until his astronomical debt is paid.

The Moral of the Story: Jesus concludes by warning that His heavenly Father will treat each of us similarly if we do not forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.



Summary on Matthew 18:21-35

Teaches that Christians are called to forgive others because God has first forgiven them. The parable challenges believers to let the mercy they receive shape the mercy they give. The more deeply a person understands God's grace, the more willing they should be to extend grace to others.

- What “debts” has God forgiven in your life?
- Are there “smaller debts” you are struggling to release?

What causes us NOT to Forgive?

- Family conflict
 - Betrayal in friendships
 - Marriage struggles
 - Church hurt
 - Workplace offenses
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- What makes forgiveness harder in deeper wounds?
 - How do we forgive when the person never apologizes?
 - Can you forgive and still have boundaries?





What Forgiveness Is and Is Not

Forgiveness IS:

- A choice (not just a feeling)
- A process (sometimes repeated)
- An act of obedience to God
- A step toward healing

Forgiveness IS NOT:

- Saying what happened was okay
- Trusting someone immediately again
- Allowing continued harm
- Forgetting the pain instantly

Real Life Application

What can you do to start forgiving yourself and/or others:

1. Identify the hurt honestly.
2. Acknowledge the pain (don't minimize it)
3. Choose to forgive (even if emotions lag behind)
4. Pray for the person (Matthew 5:44)
5. Release the situation to God

We cannot receive peace from God while tightly holding onto pain/unforgiveness.



Teach Me How To Forgive

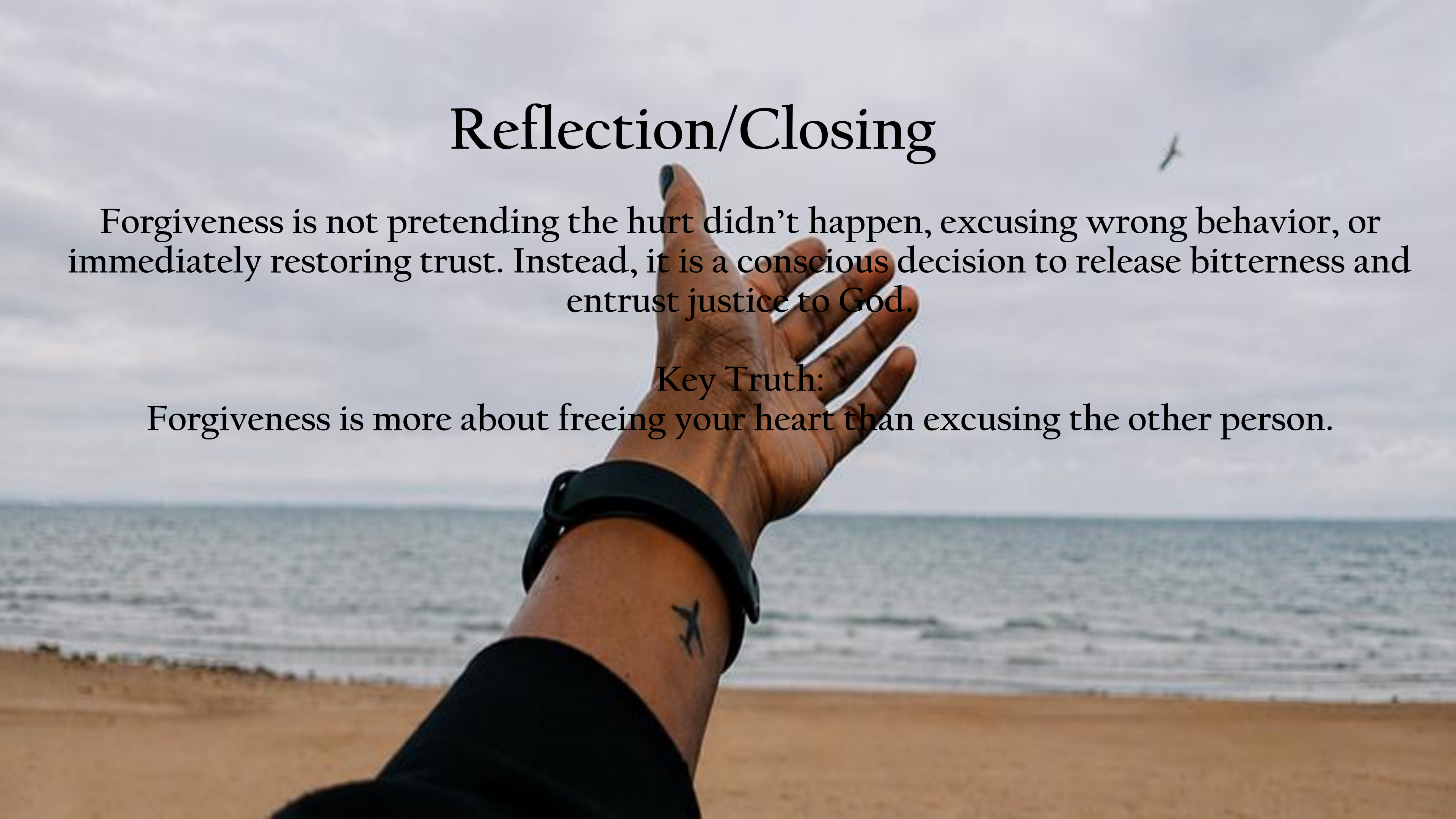


Reflection/Closing

Forgiveness is not pretending the hurt didn't happen, excusing wrong behavior, or immediately restoring trust. Instead, it is a conscious decision to release bitterness and entrust justice to God.

Key Truth:

Forgiveness is more about freeing your heart than excusing the other person.



Thank You!