

# FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS



## 1. ADDRESS MY HEART BEFORE GOD FIRST - MT 18:35 (Vertical)

(Vertical)



- A. Mk 11:25 - All encompassing command: forgive anyone anything!
- B. Eph 4:32 - Controlling model: As God forgives us, we forgive others.
- C. Lk 9:23 - Basic requirement: Deny self - forgiveness costs the forgiver.
- D. Eph 4:26-27 - Urgency: Before the sun sets lest the devil gets a foothold!
- E. Rom 12:18-19 - Surrender right to demand vengeance; God will deal with the offender justly. Repent of any sinful response to the offense, such as bitterness.
- F. Rom 12:20-21 - Reach out in love to an enemy's need. Overcome evil with a godly response rather than lowering to the level of the evil against you.

(Horizontal)

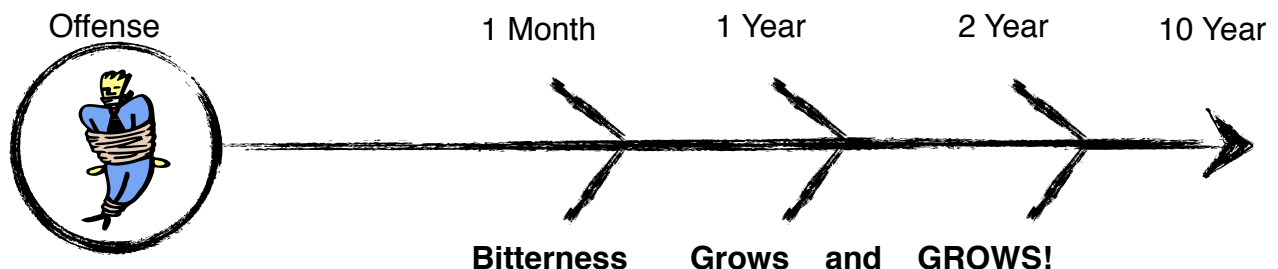
## 2. CHOOSE TO ADDRESS THE OFFENDER IN HUMILITY – Lk 17:3-10 (Horizontal)

- A. vs 3-4 - Rebuke him, but always be ready to forgive him, even for repeated offenses, in the spirit of Mt 18:15ff (church discipline), dealing with each offense first privately, always with the goal of restoration.
- B. vs 9-10 - Forgive out of obedience, even though you may not **feel** like it. Forgiveness is a one-time **choice**, and the feelings will change as you **practice** the 3 promises of forgiveness listed below.
- C. When forgiveness is asked and granted, the **transaction** is complete for both parties! Until then, have a heart ready to forgive another. Afterwards, keep the promises and continue to practice forgiveness, and when appropriate, work toward reconciliation of the relationship.

## 3. PRACTICE CONTINUALLY THESE PROMISES TO “REMEMBER NO MORE” - Jer 31:34

I will not raise this offense again in a judgmental, accusatory, or revengeful way to:

1. **Others** - in gossip - a desire to make others judge the offender just as I have judged him
2. **Offender** - repeatedly bringing up the offense in an accusatory way, using it as a weapon
3. **Self** - dwelling on the offense over and over in my mind > becoming more bitter > desiring vengeance or wishing evil toward the offender



Choose forgiveness, and 10 years later, the offense will only be a speck on the horizon as you walk away free!  
 Choose not to forgive and the offense will destroy YOU, not the offender! Mk 11:26

#### 4. REBUILDING TRUST IS PRIMARILY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFENDER.

**Mt 6:21** - Incrementally investing into the life of the one offended to rebuild trust and restore relationships by investing time, talents, thoughts, prayers, energies. To rebuild trust requires the offender to be *accountable, dependable, consistent, faithful, and predictable* over a period of time. Trust can then be rebuilt and the relationship can be restored to God's glory!

#### God's Forgiveness of Your Sin

Read Micah 7:18, 19. What makes our God so special and how is our God different from us?

What does God delight in?

How does God deal with our sins?

Read Ephesians 1:7 & 2:8,9. Is forgiveness something we can work for or earn?

Read 1 John 1:9. What is the proper way to deal with sin?

Read Isaiah 44:22. If we are sincere in our repentance, what is God's promise?

Read Psalm 103:1-5. Knowing our relationship is restored, we are to experience the full joy of our salvation. David experienced this restored joy after he committed sin and repented.

#### Your Forgiveness of Others' Sins

Read Colossians 3:12. As God's elect, what should our character and heart attitude portray?

Read Colossians 3:13. What are we admonished to do in regard to our anger toward others?

Read Mark 11:25, 26. How does our forgiveness of others affect prayer?

Read Matthew 6:14, 15. What is the greatest benefit in forgiving others?

Read and paraphrase Luke 6:36-37.

You will remember the offense forever; nevertheless your decision to forgive is final. God does not forget that we sin, but when He forgives, He chooses to remember it no more! (Read Jer 31:34) As we model after Him, we must choose to "remember no more" by...

1. Not raising the offense again to others (judging).
2. Not raising the offense again to the one already forgiven (accusing).
3. Not raising the offense again to yourself in your own mind, dwelling on it, rehashing the details, replaying the scenario in your mind, thinking up ways to get even, thinking about what you "should have" done or said to put that person down or in their place (avenging).