



Part 4: The Practice of Forgiveness // Jeff Brodie // April 6, 2025

"I'll forgive, but I won't forget." Sound familiar? We act like forgiveness is some favour we give to someone who deserves it, but Jesus tells a different story. What if holding onto bitterness is actually hurting you more than them? What if forgiveness is less about what they did and more about setting yourself free? Jesus doesn't just command forgiveness—he shows us how to do it in a way that brings freedom instead of resentment.

Scripture: [Matthew 18:21-35 NLT](#); [Colossians 3:13 NLT](#); [John 8:1-11 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: You don't forgive because they deserve it. You forgive because you've been forgiven.

Digging In:

Reminder: The goal is always a good discussion, not completing every question. Use these as a tool to help.

1. When you hear the word "forgiveness," what comes to mind? Have you ever seen someone show radical forgiveness? What stood out to you about this act?
2. What's one thing you've recently had to let go of—even if it was something small?
3. Of the three cultural models of forgiveness mentioned—earned grace, surface grace, no grace—which one do you think is most common today? How do you see these play out?
4. Read Matthew 18:21-35. Why do you think Peter asks if forgiving someone seven times is enough? What does this reveal about how we naturally view the extent of forgiveness? Jesus then answers with "seventy times seven." What message is he trying to communicate about forgiveness? How is this perspective stretching?
5. In the parable, one servant is forgiven an unpayable debt but immediately demands a relatively small repayment from a fellow servant. How is this situation ironic? Why do you think he responds this way?
6. Read Matthew 18:27. What are the three steps to forgiveness outlined here? Which of these steps do you find the easiest when it comes to forgiveness? The hardest? Why?
7. How does Jesus contrast the king's response with the forgiven servant's actions? What stands out to you most?
8. When it comes to absorbing the sin/offense of someone else and then striving to turn it into something redemptive, does that give you hope or does it seem daunting? How so?

9. How do you see the connection between forgiving others and being spiritually free yourself? How does this parable change the way we should understand the seriousness of unforgiveness in our hearts?
10. Read the moving account found in John 8:1-11. What do you find most impactful? What additional learnings does it highlight about the power and extent of forgiveness?

Looking Forward:

Colossians 3:13 says, “Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Is there someone in your life you’ve struggled to forgive, even privately in your heart? What would it look like for you to release them—even if they never apologize? What first step can you take this week?