

SERIES: *The Puzzle of Parables*
TITLE: *Forgiveness*
SPEAKER: *Pastor Bob Marvel*
PASSAGE: *Matthew 18:15-33*
DATES: *November 20-21, 2021*



MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

- Forgiveness is not about a grace period, but grace, period.
 - Forgiveness sets YOU free.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have someone give a quick recap of the parable in their own words.
 - Have you ever experienced a forgiven debt? What did that look like? (If this leads to a meaningful discussion about someone's walk with Jesus, GREAT, but push to get deeper than the classic "Jesus" answer)
 - Bob, as always, laid out a wonderful context for this parable and brought to light the idea that while this parable seems easy enough to grasp for us (after knowing life after the Cross and Resurrection), Peter wouldn't have had that knowledge/experience. Can you put yourself in Peter's shoes? What do you suppose you'd be thinking?
 - Bob quotes Lewis Swedes as saying "Nothing is more central to Christianity than forgiveness" - How do you feel about that? Do you agree? Why/why not?
 - Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32 and others say something along the lines of: "Do XYZ AS the Lord did XYZ for you. The Lord's prayer says "forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors" Would you want that? What would that look like in your life?
 - Matthew 18:34 talks about the wicked servant being turned over to the jailer to be tortured - how does it sit with you knowing that Jesus might have meant that YOU are the jailer?
 - Is there someone in your life that you are struggling to forgive? Are you torturing yourself by not forgiving them?
 - Bob ended by saying forgiveness is not a command, it's an invitation. What does this mean for the broken relationships in your life? What about for your relationship with God?
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NEXT STEPS

- Prayerfully consider if there is someone you need to forgive and be bold about seeking reconciliation this week.