

SCCC - HEART FORGIVENESS

S - SCRIPTURES

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

C- Consideration

The warning from Jesus came from a question of Peter, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered him that not just seven times, but seventy-seven times, meaning unlimited times. To make His point, He shared a parable with them, about a King who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. One man owed him ten thousand bags of gold. 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. However, that man 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. As Jesus proceeded, He said, “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. “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. Those who had known of his canceled debts told the King what the man had done. “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.”

C – Commitment

The picture that Jesus gave concerning unforgiveness is a very strong one. Obviously, He refers to Christians, as He was teaching his disciples, and because of His conclusion: “unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” He said that it couldn’t be mental or oral forgiveness but from the heart. The servant in the parable represents us. We had been forgiven by a debt that would be impossible for us to pay to our King, yet, in His mercy, He not just forgave us, but gave His sinless Son to pay it in our place. He pointed out that no matter how bad we think someone has hurt us, how much someone has stolen from us, how cruel someone had acted against us, these are almost like nothing when compared with our uncountable sins against Him. In the end, Jesus showed in the parable that the ones who lose the most are ourselves, for we become prisoners, tortured by the terrible side effects of unforgiveness such as depression, hatred, torments, self-pity, frustration, bitterness, and so on. Therefore, let’s remember what Jesus taught about prayer, “And forgive us our debts, as we also...” had forgiven our debtors” ...from the heart!

C – Call

My Heavenly Father, help me see the amazing grace You showed towards me, help me not fall into the deception of unforgiveness, and deliver me from the lies of the devil telling me to keep records against others in my heart. Lord, give me a discerning and compassionate heart to forgive my brothers and sisters. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.