

**Title:** Forgiven and Forgiving  
**Speaker:** Associate Pastor Peter Ong  
**Scriptures:** Matthew 18: 21-35

## Introduction

Some interesting quotes on forgiveness:

- Men forget but never forgive, women forgive but never forget!
- Most of us can forgive and forget, we just don't want the other person to forget that we forgave!
- To err is human to forgive is divine!
- The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attitude of the strong!
- To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you!
- Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future!

Forgiveness is an inevitable choice for anyone who desires to live an overcoming life. Jesus teaches forgiveness through a descriptive parable in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 18: 21-35

“Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

- The disciple Peter brings up the question of offence and forgiveness and Jesus answers through relating the parable of the unforgiving servant.
- The parable is clear and simple to understand. See the truths that can lead one to be forgiven and forgiving!

**1) Forgiveness is a choice – (vs. 27, 30)**

- a) Choose to forgive because you have been forgiven!
- b) Beware of the wrong choice – there are harmful results! – Bitterness, blame and bondage.

**2) Forgive with God's love – (vs. 27, 33)**

- a) It is a wilful expression of giving freely what you have received.
- a) Nothing can challenge the love of God – it overcomes! (Romans 8:37-39)

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.  
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities  
nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor  
any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which  
is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**3) Have a forgiving attitude – (v. 22)**

- a) Offences have no boundaries – any one, any day, anywhere, any how – it can and will happen.
- b) Follow the example of Jesus.

**Conclusion**

Henry Beecher Ward's advice on forgiving and forgetting:

“I can forgive but cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I will not forgive.

Forgiveness ought to be like ... a cancelled note – torn in two, and burned up, so that it never can be shown against one.”

What would forgiveness for you be like?