



# STORY TIME

Great Life Lessons from the Parables of Jesus



## #3 "How To Stay Free"

**Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' <sup>30</sup> But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup> This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**1. Forgiveness = a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

**2. Becoming a forgiver starts with being \_\_\_\_\_.**

*In this parable we find a comparison:*

- We are the servant owing a massive debt to God because of our sins. (Our sinful nature and sinful choices.)
- Try as we like; our debt is too big to be repaid by us.

- Mercy, grace, and forgiveness from God is our only hope to avoid the terrible consequences of our debt.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NIV) When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

**3. Receiving God's forgiveness should change the way we \_\_\_\_\_ others.**

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**4. Forgiving is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ always brings blessings.**

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

**5. \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness (and grace) brings \_\_\_\_\_.**

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV) "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

**6. Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Romans 12:17-20 (NIV) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.