

Breaking the Resentment Barrier

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 18:21-35.
- B. Subject: the healing of hurts between people.
- C. We all want to be forgiven, but we find it a struggle to forgive.

II. Jesus commanded Peter to forgive without measure.

A. Peter thought this was magnanimous—the rabbis only taught that you had to forgive seven times.

B. The reason we are to forgive our brothers generously is that God has forgiven us a massive debt—He has taken our massive debt upon Himself.

1. We must forgive because anything else is hypocritical—we cannot demand justice because we do not stand on justice ourselves.

a. We must forgive because we have already been forgiven. (Colossians 3, Ephesians 4, II Peter)

b. Christian forgiveness puts aside hardness—the inner attitude is changed and there is an acceptance of the offender.

2. We forgive because bitterness becomes a problem within you.

Application questions:

1. How did Jesus correct the common understanding of forgiveness of His day?

2. On what two grounds must we forgive completely as Christians?

3. What resentments are you holding? How can you make steps to address this to find personal healing?
