

## Finding Peace By Forgiving

Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV)

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Jesus Is The Light

John 8:12 (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus Is God

John 10:30 (ESV)

“...I and the Father are one.”

Jesus Is The Way

John 14:6a (NKJV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

The Battleship and the Lighthouse story

“I am surprised how many modern people do not understand that all of life has an underlying structure. There are certain universal laws and principles that God has built into our earthly existence and we violate them at our own peril – Steven Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

Jesus Came To Forgive

Luke 23:34a (NKJV)

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

What Is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt

Forgiveness is an act of love, mercy, and grace

Forgiveness is a decision to not hold something against another person, despite what they have done to you

Who Paid For The Gift Of Forgiveness

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Receive The Gift Of Forgiveness

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow  
– Elvina M. Hall, 1865

How To Find Peace By Forgiving

Matthew 18:21-22 (NKJV)

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

## Jesus Explains Peace By Forgiving

Matthew 18:23-35 (NKJV)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. "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!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 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. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

## Five Steps To Peace By Forgiving

### Open Your Heart To Forgive

Matthew 18:35 (ESV)

So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

### Extend Compassion

Matthew 18:27, 33 (ESV)

And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ...And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?

Release From Your Heart Prison

Matthew 18:27 (ESV)

And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Forgive Each Offense

Matthew 18:27, 32, 35 (ESV)

And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ...Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.' ...So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

Bless And Do Good To The Person

Matthew 5:44 (ESV)

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Corrie Ten Boom Story