



ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7  
MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

## HOW CAN I KNOW HOW TO FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO HAS HURT ME?

Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction: Forgiveness is a commodity we like to receive but prefer not to dispense. At times we try to bargain with it—withholding it to receive something greater. At other times we pursue it as a valuable treasure. It seems our perspective depends on whether we are the offended or the offender. In Jesus' teaching, we discover we are to demonstrate the forgiveness we have received from God as a testimony of His mercy and grace in a world dying to find genuine forgiveness. Through a parable Jesus reveals:

Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay, says the Lord. Romans 12:19

- I. The E\_\_\_\_\_ Debt (vv. 23-27)
- II. The S\_\_\_\_\_ Debt (vv. 28-30)
- III. The J\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 31-35)

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>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 that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:37-38

“For if you forgive people their wrongdoing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. <sup>15</sup>But if you don't forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrongdoing.” Matthew 6:14-15

# HOW CAN I KNOW HOW TO START OVER WHEN I HAVE BLOWN IT?

(JOHN 21:215-19)

Discussion Questions for Next Week:

1. What ideas or images come to your mind when you hear the words “failure” and “consequences”?
2. What is the difference between judicial and parental forgiveness?
3. How would you explain the steps one must take to receive forgiveness?