




TITLE: *It Had To Be Said: 'Turn The Other Cheek'™*

 **OPENING QUESTION:** Have you ever held a grudge over something *ridiculously small*—like someone stealing your parking spot or eating your leftovers? What was it, and how long did you hold onto it?

Matthew 5:38-39—“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.”

Luke 23:32-33— Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with (Jesus) to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.


Luke 23:34— Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Isaiah 53:12— For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**THE B.C. RESPONSE FROM HUMANITY:
YOU OWE ME, AND JUSTICE IS MINE.**


Matthew 5:38— “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’”

**THE A.D. RESPONSE:
GOD FORGAVE ME SO, I’LL FORGIVE YOU.**

 **QUESTION:** Why does Jesus’ way feel so unnatural, and why does our flesh tend to prefer being bitter or seeking revenge?

Matthew 6:12— Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 18:23-27— “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”

 **QUESTION:** The forgiven servant was released from an impossible debt (millions). Why do you think Jesus used such an extreme example?



WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE FORGIVEN SERVANT:

• The Debtor Can't Always REPAY YOU.

Matthew 18:24-25a— In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay...



QUESTION: Obviously, Jesus has forgiven us, and that is the greatest forgiveness, but can you think of a time when someone forgave you? What are you most grateful for in that forgiveness?

• The Offended Can Always SHOW MERCY.

Matthew 18:27— Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

CONSEQUENCES FOR UNFORGIVENESS:

Matthew 18:32-35— “You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you? Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”



QUESTION: How have you been aware of being imprisoned by your own unforgiveness in the past?



QUESTION: How has withholding forgiveness poisoned your relationships?

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE OFFENSE SEEMS TOO BIG?

• JESUS' LOVE IS GREATER THAN ANY OFFENSE.

Matthew 18:33— Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?

Matthew 6:14-15— For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

CLOSING QUESTIONS:



QUESTION: What are some practical ways we can remind ourselves daily of God's forgiveness so we're quicker to forgive others?



QUESTION: Who are the people you haven't forgiven that you need to commit to pray for regularly?

