FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE PEOPLE

Parables
August 23, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 7:36-50
- Matthew 18:21-35
- Ephesians 4:26-32
- Hebrews 12:14-15
- Genesis 4:23-24

KEY POINTS

- Forgiven people forgive people.
- Gratitude for our own forgiveness is the fuel for extending it to others.
- The woman with the alabaster flask loved much because she had been forgiven much.
- Taking forgiveness for granted produces little love; deep gratitude produces deep love.
- Unforgiveness is a self-made prison that tortures the one who refuses to release the debt.
- Jesus calls us to forgive not seven times, but seventy-seven (or seventy times seven) times; that's radical, ongoing forgiveness.
- Bitterness is a root that defiles many and gives the enemy a foothold.
- We cannot be un-saved by unforgiveness, but we can live in torment and lose our freedom and joy.
- Forgiveness does not mean forgetting what happened; it means releasing the person and bearing the cost ourselves, just as Jesus did.

DISCUSSION

- Pastor Bob said we either take forgiveness for granted or receive it with gratitude. Which one more accurately describes your current posture toward God's forgiveness of you?
- The sinful woman "loved much" because she had been forgiven much. How does remembering the depth of your own forgiveness change the way you view people who have hurt you?
- In the parable of the unforgiving servant, the man who was forgiven a massive debt refused to forgive a tiny one. Where might you be holding on to a "small" debt while forgetting the enormous one Jesus canceled for you?
- Jesus said the Heavenly Father will treat us the same way if we do not forgive from the heart. What does "from the heart" forgiveness look like in practical terms?
- Have you ever experienced the "prison" or "torture" of bitterness and unforgiveness? What helped (or is helping) you get free?
- Hebrews 12 warns that a root of bitterness can defile many. How have you seen unforgiveness spread and affect relationships beyond just the two people involved?
- Is there anyone the Holy Spirit is bringing to mind right now whom you need to forgive, or ask forgiveness from? What is one step you can take this week?