

# CROSS WORDS

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“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. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”  
Luke 23:32-34

## The Before Christ Response

- **You \_\_\_\_\_ Me And \_\_\_\_\_ Is Mine**  
“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’  
Matthew 5:38

## The After Christ Response

- **God \_\_\_\_\_ Me So I’ll \_\_\_\_\_ You**  
“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”  
Matthew 6:12

“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.”  
Matthew 18:23-27

## Lessons From The Forgiven Servant

- **The Debtor Can’t Always \_\_\_\_\_ You**  
“In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay...”  
Matthew 18:24-25a

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

- **The Offended Can Always \_\_\_\_\_**  
“Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”  
Matthew 18:27

## The Consequences Of Unforgiveness

“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.”  
Matthew 18:32-35

## What Do You Do When The Offense Seems Too Big?

- **Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ Is Greater Than Any \_\_\_\_\_**  
“Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?”  
Matthew 18:33  
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.”  
Matthew 6:14-15

## Memory Verse

“Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”  
Colossians 3:13

## MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Receive God’s forgiveness for the first time today and begin to follow Jesus Christ
- Memorize Colossians 3:13
- Offer God’s forgiveness to someone who doesn’t deserve it
- Sign up to receive the daily lenten email devotionals



## Discussion Questions - Week #6

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "The Word of Forgiveness," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan to take this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

- Do you find it easier to ask for forgiveness or grant forgiveness to someone who has wronged you in some way?
- Before you knew Christ as your Savior, how did you treat others who wronged you? Do you treat them differently now?
- Share your favorite example of forgiveness outside of the bible.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Luke 7:36-50. What stands out to you in this passage?

What problem did the Pharisee have with the woman?

Do you think your attitude regarding the gift of forgiveness is more like Simon's or that of the woman?

What danger does this passage suggest in losing touch with how greatly we've been forgiven?

In 1 Timothy 1:15, the Apostle Paul refers to himself as "the worst of sinners." How do you think Paul's self-understanding impacted his day-to-day relationship with Jesus?

Are there any habits you can work on this week to deliberately grow in gratefulness for the forgiveness you have received?

2. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. What do you think it means to forgive others just as in Christ God forgave us?

How does God's forgiveness differ from the way we forgive others?

How does extending forgiveness make us more like Christ?

What is the connection between the things Paul mentions in verses 29 and 31 with the forgiveness he describes in verse 32?

How do we forgive someone that we don't feel like forgiving?

### FOR PRACTICE

One of the least popular spiritual disciplines of our day is the discipline of submission. Submission is defined as not asserting ourselves in order to come under the authority, wisdom, and power of Jesus Christ as our Lord, King, and Master. In addition, we actively submit to scripture, hearing, receiving, and obeying the Word of God. Through the act of submission to the Incarnate and written Word, we surrender our perceived right to hold onto a grudge or bitterness and forgive following His model and command. Richard Foster suggests, "The first words of our day form the prayer of Thomas à Kempis, "As thou wilt; what thou wilt; when thou wilt."

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS