



## **Fruit of the Spirit— Discipleship** **A Series that will bring Fruit to your Life** **~ Troy DeFeo**

### **Bible Study Four:**

### **“Love that Forgives”**

#### **Love:**

**Text: Matthew 18:21-35**

“I forgive, but I will not forget?” — is this true forgiveness?

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This is a very tough subject that has many levels of emotions and spiritual implications to it. How has forgiveness been a strength or a weakness for you?

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**Look at hebrews 12:15-** warns us to **“see to it”...that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.** Bitterness or un-forgiveness is like a root hidden beneath the ground. If it is not pulled out, then it will eventually grow and bring forth bad fruit.

The root is formed from a variety of causes: broken relationships, parental neglect, abuse, unfulfilled expectations, feelings of betrayal, and even a feeling being hurt from a loving God.

An unwillingness to forgive and deal with bitter roots has enormous consequences—-spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. For this reason, Jesus strongly addresses this life-and-death issue for us in Matthew 18.

Do you remember a time when someone needed to forgive you? What did that look like and what were you hoping for?

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Read Matthew 18:21-35 now. Jewish law taught that “if a man sins once, twice, or three times, they forgive him; if he sins a fourth time, they do not forgive him.” In light of this, what does Peter’s question in verse 21 reveal about his view of forgiveness?

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What is so amazing about Jesus’ reply? vs 22

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Jesus expands on his answer with a parable (vs 23-35) How does the servant who owes ten thousand talents (around \$10 million today) respond when the king is ready to settle accounts?

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**“The debt was more than the total revenue of a wealthy province. This suggests that the servant was a person who gathered revenue for the king. The sale of the man’s wife, children, and possessions would pay for only a small percentage of what he owed.”**

How would you feel if you were under the weight of this type of debt?

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Consider the 3 actions the master takes toward his servant vs 27: How do they illustrate the way God has dealt with us?

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How do the master’s actions contrast with the way the servant treats his fellow servant?

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A hundred denarii was worth about \$20 dollars. What point is Jesus making about us by using such a ridiculously small amount?

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Why do you think the servant failed to forgive after having been forgiven so much?

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**“The parable gives us two powerful motivators for forgiving: the mercy of God and the wholesome fear of God. Fear of the Lord refers to the reverence and awe of God that lead to obedience: “Fear of the Lord is the beginning knowledge”- Proverbs 1:7, and “to fear the Lord is to hate evil.” Proverbs 8:13. An unwillingness to forgive is a dangerous thing.**

How does the master judge the servant when he finds out what he’s done vs 32-34 \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think God’s sentence against us is so severe if we don’t forgive vs. 35 \_\_\_\_\_

According to Jesus, what does an unwillingness to extend mercy prove vs. 35 and Matthew 6:15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Forgiveness is a process, not an event. The deeper the wound, the more time needed for healing. Grieving is an important element of forgiveness. Sometimes we forgive too quickly, not allowing ourselves to feel pain. This leads to superficial, cheap forgiveness. Grieving means letting go. It is a work of grace.**

Jesus began by saying that this is what the kingdom of God is like (Matthew 18:23)

Summarize how and why Christ’s kingdom is so different than the world’s.

Forgiving others take a miracle. Jesus said in the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).