



Limitless Forgiveness?

Series: Kingdom Stories for Everyday Life

Scripture: Luke 18:15-35

Tim Keller points out 3 models of forgiveness that our world operates on:

1. A pressure to _____ forgive. = _____ grace
2. A pressure to _____ forgive. = _____ Grace
3. A pressure to _____ forgive. = _____ Grace

Jesus is instructing us that our capacity for _____ must be as unlimited as the human capacity for _____.

- Genesis 4

Scene One (vv23-27):

- Forgiveness _____ involves a “_____.”
- The obvious lesson: the _____ of God’s grace.

Scene Two (vv28-30):

- The obvious lesson: the _____ of our _____ to forgive.

Scene Three (vv31-34):

- “*Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?*” (v33)
- How is it that we can think _____ is only for the _____ and not for the _____?

Four Components of Forgiveness (from Tim Keller)

1. _____ the _____ truthfully as wrong and punishable.
2. _____ with the perpetrator as a fellow _____ rather than thinking how different from you he or she is.
3. _____ the wrongdoer from _____ by absorbing the debt rather than seeking _____.
4. _____ for _____ rather than breaking off the relationship forever.

Our model of forgiveness: _____ grace

Start Talking.

- When you hear the word forgiveness, what emotions or reactions immediately surface?
- Which of the three cultural models (cheap grace, little grace, no grace) do you see most often today?
- Why do you think forgiveness feels so difficult in our world right now?

Start Thinking:

- Why do you think Peter thought seven times was generous? What does Jesus' response reveal about the nature of forgiveness?
- The first servant was forgiven an unimaginable debt. What does that represent spiritually?
- Why is the servant's refusal to forgive such a shocking turn in the story?
- What does this parable teach us about the connection between receiving mercy and giving mercy?
- Why is forgiveness described as costly?

Start Sharing:

- Is there someone you've struggled to forgive? What has made it difficult?
- Which part of forgiveness is hardest for you: Naming the wrong truthfully? Identifying with the offender as a fellow sinner? Releasing the debt? Moving toward reconciliation (when possible)?
- Have you ever experienced "the Big Relief" of being forgiven? How did that shape you?
- Do you tend to minimize wrongs (cheap grace) or make people earn mercy (little grace)?

Start Praying:

- Ask God to show you where bitterness or scorekeeping may still linger.
- Thank Him specifically for the debt He has canceled in your life.
- Pray for the strength to absorb hurt rather than repay it.
- Pray for wisdom where reconciliation may be complicated or unsafe.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week

- Identify one step toward forgiveness you can take this week (a prayer, a conversation, releasing resentment).
- Stop rehearsing the offense — and start rehearsing the grace you've received.
- If appropriate and safe, move one step toward reconciliation.
- Memorize or meditate on Psalm 32:1–2 as a reminder of the joy of forgiven sin.