

Life's Healing Choices: 6 of 8
"The Relationship Choice"
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
November 20, 2022

The Relationship Choice: I evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

Matthew 5:7&9 (NIV) Remember Verse

○ **We Are Forgiven A Debt That We Could Never Repay**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? **Up to seven times?**" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but **seventy-seven times**. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to **settle accounts** with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him **ten thousand talents** was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master **took pity** on him, **canceled** the debt and let him go.

Matthew 18:21-27 (NIV)

○ **The Unforgiving Become The Un-Forgiven**

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a **hundred denarii**. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, '**Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.**' "But **he refused**. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, '**I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?**' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you **unless you forgive** your brother from your heart." **Matthew 18:28-35 (NIV)**

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." **1 John 4:10 (NIV)**

How Do I Forgive?

1. Reveal my Hurt

I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence." ² But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, **my anguish increased.** **Psalm 39:1-2 (NIV)**

2. Release Those Who Have Hurt Me To God

"Do not **repay** anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it **depends on you**, live at peace with everyone. Do not take **revenge**, my friends, but **leave room** for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord."

Romans 12:17-19 (NIV)

"See to it that no one **misses the grace of God** and that no **bitter root** grows up to cause trouble and defile many." **Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)**

3. Ask Forgiveness From Those I've Harmed

○ **Make a list of those I've harmed**

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there **remember** that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

○ **Be Appropriate**

"For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him." **Ecclesiastes 8:6 (NIV)**

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings **healing.**"

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

○ **Give Restitution Where Needed**

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will **pay back** four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house." **Luke 19:8-9 (NIV)**

➤ Is there a broken relationship lying at the root of my pain?

My next right step, I will:

[] Give thanks and rejoice in my salvation

[] Reveal my hurt to God

[] Choose to release the person who has hurt me to God

[] Make amends with the person I have harmed

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss]

Open in Prayer.

Icebreaker: What is the strangest argument you have had?

The Relationship Choice: I voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life, and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

Matthew 5:7&9 (NIV) Remember Verse

○ **We Are Forgiven A Debt That We Could Never Repay**

Read Matthew 18:21-27

What would you do to celebrate if all your debts were paid off?

How would you describe the measure of forgiveness of your sins?

○ **The Unforgiving Become The Un-Forgiven**

Read Matthew 18:28-35

In refusing to be merciful to others, what do we deny ourselves? 18:31-34

What is the comparison of the two servants debts? 18:24, 28

If you were the master, how would have you felt when the servant refused to forgive the other servants debt?

Which character in this story can you relate to the most? Why?

Read 1 John 4:10

What does it mean that Jesus was our atoning sacrifice?

How Do I Forgive?

1. Reveal My Hurt

Read Psalm 39:1-2

What have you learned about bottling up things?

Is there a broken relationship lying at the root of your pain?

2. Release Those Who Have Hurt Me To God

Read Romans 12:17-19

What relationship is God asking you to live at peace?

In your broken relationships, how well do you do at leaving room for God to work?

Read Hebrews 12:15

Is there some bitterness that you need to resolve with the God?

How can God's grace help you?

3. Ask Forgiveness From Those I've Harmed

○ Make a list of those I've harmed

Read Matthew 5:23-24

Is there a relationship that you need to make right this week?

○ Be Appropriate

Read Ecclesiastes 8:6

How can you use better timing in resolving conflict?

Read Proverbs 12:18

What are some words that you need to avoid using?

What are some reassuring words that you can use for healing?

○ Give Restitution Where Needed

Read Luke 19:8-9

Is there a relationship that you need to make amends this week?