

In the Secret Places: Forgiving Others
Matthew 6:14–15

Opening Discussion:

1. Have you ever been forgiven by someone you truly sinned against? What was that like? How did it feel?
2. Why is it hard to forgive others? Can you share a time when you have struggled to forgive someone?
3. Can we forgive someone who does not repent?
4. What are some reasons we must forgive others?

God's _____ of our sin is directly related to our _____ of others, and
our _____ of others is directly related to God's _____ of us.

Explore the Passage

1. If you forgive others their _____

2. Your heavenly Father will also _____ you

3. But if you do not _____ . . . neither will your _____ forgive

*Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. **Luke 6:37-38***

*And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **Mark 11:25***

*For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. **James 2:13***

Most importantly, this point is applied and illustrated in Matthew 18:15-35.

We _____ others because we have been _____ an even greater debt. There is no other sufficient reason to forgive others.

Our forgiveness of others doesn't _____ God's forgiveness, but it _____ that we are truly repentant and thankful for God's mercy. If we are not thankful for God's mercy, we are not true recipients of God's mercy.

Fill in the Blank Answers

Opening Discussion

God's forgiveness of our sin is directly related to our forgiveness of others, and our forgiveness of others is directly related to God's forgiveness of us.

Explore the Passage

1. trespasses
2. forgive
3. forgive, Father

We forgive others because we have been forgiven an even greater debt. There is no other sufficient reason to forgive others.

Our forgiveness of others doesn't earn God's forgiveness, but it indicates that we are truly repentant and thankful for God's mercy. If we are not thankful for God's mercy, we are not true recipients of God's mercy.