

CHATTING WITH GOD

FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE



Memory verse: Matthew 6:12 (ESV)

'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.'

Key passage: Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

BIG QUESTION: **DO YOU FIND IT EASY TO FORGIVE?**

It's hard to forgive people isn't it? Jesus' mates, the disciples, had such a hard time forgiving that Peter asked Jesus once how many times they should forgive someone. Sounds like one of the other disciples was really annoying Peter, maybe John trod on Peter's new sandals? So Jesus told them a story about a king who was calling in all the debt that he was owed. One of his servants owed millions of pounds and had no way of paying. So the King was going to have to sell the man and his family as slaves to pay the debt! The servant threw himself onto his knees before the King and begged 'Be patient with me and I will pay back everything'. But then the King did something extraordinary... He had pity on the servant and cancelled the debt, not just a few 100 pounds every last penny and set him free. In our key verse today the word debt also means sin. Sin created a massive debt that we had to pay to God; it's so big that none of us could pay it. But, King Jesus has cancelled our debt, every last penny. We have been forgiven and set free.



SOMETHING TO DO

Do you need to forgive someone? It could be a sibling or someone from school. Why don't you spend some time together praying for and forgiving that person? A good way to start is to actually say in prayer 'I forgive...'. You won't always feel it straight away, but if you keep saying it overtime you'll feel it too. If you're feeling extra brave you could even do something nice for that person.

In the next part of the story after the servant is set free he went to find one of his fellow servants who owed him 100 pound. He attacked him and demanded back his money; the man couldn't pay so the servant had him thrown into prison. Is that fair? The servant had been forgiven so much, but he couldn't forgive his fellow servant who owed him a little. When we refuse to forgive someone what we're really saying is 'You owe me!' It's like they owe you money and you won't forgive them until it's paid in full. This isn't the way of the King. The way of the King is to cancel debt to set the captives free. The final part of Jesus' story about the King concludes with the servant being thrown back into prison for not forgiving his fellow servant. The scary thing is that if we don't forgive we can't be forgiven, Jesus spoke about this when He said 'If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6: 14-15, NLT). Forgiveness sets us free to set the captives free.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- If you haven't done it before, why don't you ask King Jesus to forgive you for your sins?
- Who do you need to forgive?



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, please forgive me for my sin and thank you for paying my debt. Amen.

