

CHAPEL

Seven The Power of Forgiveness

³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
Luke 23:34

Forgiveness: To cut off and release

1. Jesus sees the unseen.

⁴³ "You have heard **the law that says**, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ **But I say**, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven... ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. Matthew 5:43-45, 47

The good news is that God's **grace** doesn't come with an expiration date. Forgiveness doesn't just **set you** on the right road. It **keeps you** there.

2. Jesus frees others.

Forgiveness is God's desire, but my decision.

²³ "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you **suddenly** remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. **Go and be reconciled** to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.
Matthew 5:23-24

3. Jesus frees me.

"Don't let what happened in the **past**, paralyze you in the **present!**"

³¹ **Get rid of** all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. Hebrews 12:1