

**Quicksand: Debt-Free Living**  
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**OFFENSE:** *Greek – skandalon*, a trap or snare

**Proverbs 14:30 MSG**

A sound mind makes for a robust body, but **runaway emotions corrode the bones.**

**Matthew 18:21-35 NIV**

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 bags of gold 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. BUT when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. 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.

The Truth About Forgiveness:

## **1) There Is Real Hurt and Pain in Our Lives**

God cannot heal what you're unwilling to reveal.

Forgiveness is not:

**DENIAL** – Pretending it wasn't a big deal

**APPROVAL** – Saying what happened was okay

**FORGETTING** – Forgive and Forget isn't real

**RELATIONSHIP** – That relationship may need to change

### **John 20:26-28 NIV**

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "**Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.**"

You may carry the SCAR with you, but you don't have to carry the WOUND with you forever.

The Truth About Forgiveness:

## **2) God Really Wants Us to Live "Debt-Free"**

**Forgiveness** – To release someone from paying back a debt that IS owed.

The most tortured people are the ones who refuse to forgive.

### **Colossians 2:13-14 NLT**

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. **He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.**

### **Matthew 6:11-12 NIV**

Give us today our daily bread. And **forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

The Truth About Forgiveness:

**3) There Is Real Power to Forgive**

**Matthew 18:33 NIV**

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant **just as I had on you?**

**Colossians 3:13 TPT**

Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, **forgiving one another in the SAME WAY you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ.** If you find fault with someone, **release this SAME GIFT of forgiveness to them.**

**Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT**

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

The power to forgive others comes from the fact that I have been forgiven in Jesus Christ!

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” – *C.S. Lewis*

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**EASY** – Forgiveness is a choice

**ONE-and-DONE** – Forgiveness is a continual process

**Forgiveness Prayer:**

God, I repent for withholding forgiveness from (Name the person).

Today, I make a decision to forgive them for (Name their offense).

Father, when they did this it, made me feel (Share your emotions with God). God, I no longer want to carry this wound. Today, I make a

choice to give you the pain. I hand (Name the person) over to you and choose to allow you to be my justice-maker. Right now, I receive the gift of joy, hope, peace and love that's found in You. Thank You for beginning to heal my heart, in Jesus' name.