

*It's All About Control*  
*Matthew 18:21-35*

If we fail to deal with relationship injuries in the right way, they can make us \_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom. \_\_\_\_\_ is the only effective way to heal from the injuries we sustain from others, but the dimensions of that forgiveness are hard to accept. To forgive 77 times seems impossible. Jesus set the bar so high to indicate that this issue of forgiveness is so \_\_\_\_\_ for us to get right. Holding on to the bitterness that comes from wounds inflicted on us by others can disrupt, impede, even \_\_\_\_\_ everything God is trying to accomplish in your life and mine.

Jesus' parable makes this point. A man experienced an \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness—equal to billions of dollars. The forgiven man was owed 1,000's of times less than he had been forgiven, but he immediately refused to show any \_\_\_\_\_ concerning the debt he was owed. His life had spun out of control. Forgiveness is a matter of \_\_\_\_\_—of who you are going to allow to be in control of your life. Forgiveness is only possible when you conclude that \_\_\_\_\_ is in control of your life, and you accept that.

If I hold on to any feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ toward someone until either I hurt them for hurting me or they say something or do something to soothe me, I am allowing them to \_\_\_\_\_.

Unforgiveness is also an attempt to control \_\_\_\_\_. We don't forgive so we can keep controlling others. As a believer, you should know, \_\_\_\_\_ is in control of other people's lives like He is yours. **Romans 14:**\_\_\_\_\_ reminds us of this.

When you choose to forgive, God by His grace will bring about the redemptive, \_\_\_\_\_ protection you've always tried to manage. You don't get a \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, God offers you \_\_\_\_\_ that will never leave you.

Unforgiveness binds you to your \_\_\_\_\_; forgiveness liberates you for a \_\_\_\_\_ where God, by His grace and forgiveness, is in control and where your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can be found.