The Struggle to Forgive
Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus called for _____ forgiveness of offenders. Peter wanted to be a serious, committed follower of Jesus. But Jesus's ideals and directives regularly _____ _____ of Peter than he believed he could do. So, he sought to establish a _____ on just how high the bar of forgiveness could reasonably be placed. Jesus multiplied Peter's sevenfold into seventy-sevenfold forgiveness—a number meant to break the habit of _____ _____. Our forgiveness must have no limits.

Jesus' parable illustrates why such an expectation is not _____. The parable moves us from being the offended to the offender. Instead, the offended is ____. Having our entire sin debt forgiven by God, we are the servant whose debt of 10,000 talents was erased—___ _____ day's wages for a typical servant. That's how large and _____ our sin debt was to God.

The actions of that servant who demands repayment and punishment against a fellow servant for a debt of 100 denarii appear hypocritical, calloused, and _____. God knows the offenses we suffer can be costly, painful, and _____ to forgive. But in comparison, the difference between the _____ He experienced due to our sin and the _____ He paid to forgive us is as great as the difference between a debt that would take you ___ months to settle and one that would take you nearly _____ years to repay.

Forgiveness is deliberately deciding you will no longer hold a person in _____ for something valuable they cost you—whether a damaged _____, a betrayed _____, or a _____ _____. You won't make them pay by giving them a cold shoulder or by slander or by some other method of _____ Christian love.

Remember, our sins are _____ and _____, but God's grace in Christ _____ _____ each one when we accepted Jesus. So, in response we decide to forgive and forgive again.

And here's the bonus: each time we forgive, we _____ _____.