

You Can't Keep A Captive's Grudge When You Have A Deliverer's Destiny!

You are either a captive or a deliverer!

Matthew 18:21-35

21. Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22. Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

25. 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.

26. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

27. The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30. "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

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

34. In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Hebrews 12:14-15 - Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

"Forgive" in the Greek literally means to send it forth, let it go, turn it loose.

Luke 15: 28 – "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

Luke 15:31-32 - "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

If you spend all your time focusing on the sins of those around you instead of focusing on your own relationship with God, you just might find yourself swallowed up in the same sin!

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I. Why do so many People hold a grudge?

1. People hold a grudge because we remember the hurt!

If we are going to walk in fellowship with God, we must not continue to hold wrongs done to us against others!

2. People hold a grudge because we are typically reactive!

3. People hold a grudge because we would rather seek revenge than forgiveness!

Mark 11:25 - And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15 - For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Romans 12:19-21 - Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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II. Why do we need to let go of grudges?

1. We should let go of grudges in order to have some peace!

“The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge!”

“Grudges are a big waste of happiness!”

“Holding a grudge is like getting stung to death by one bee!”

“Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die!”

“Holding a grudge is like letting somebody live rent free in your head!”

Survey showed that 41% of remarried women were still furious with their first husbands and 31% of Men still angry with first wife.

Holding on to resentment only hurts the one who holds onto it!

1 Cor. 13:5 - It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Luke 6:27-28 - "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

2. We should let go of grudges in order to move forward and not live in past.

There is nothing more pitiful than a person who is continually living in the past!

Genesis 41:51 - Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh (causing to forget) and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."

3. We should let go of grudges in order to be forgiven!

There are some people in this world who are EGRs... It's Extra Grace Required to be anywhere near them!

If you plan on holding onto a grudge, you better pray that you never need to be forgiven!

Matthew 18:33-34

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

34. In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

If you are a Christian who refuses to forgive, you are a Christian who has imprisoned yourself!

4. We should let go of grudges because if not... our kids will carry it to the next level!

5. We should let go of grudges because Jesus set the example!

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