FORGIVENESS: FROM THE HEART

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT / MATTHEW 18:21–35

FOLLOW ME: MADE BY JESUS

FORGIVENESS

FROM THE HEART

MATTHEW 18:21–35



MERCY RECEIVED → MERCY EXTENDED

Peter's Formation

IDENTITY → CALLING → DISCIPLESHIP → FAITH → CONFESSION
CORRECTION → SURRENDER → GLORY → FREEDOM → FORGIVENESS

FORMATION FOCUS: FORGIVENESS

Jesus teaches Peter that those who receive mercy must extend mercy to others.

BIG IDEA

Jesus teaches that those who receive God's extraordinary mercy must extend forgiveness to others from the heart.

I. Jesus Calls His Disciples to Forgive Without Keeping Count.

MATTHEW 18:21–22

• Peter asks about _____ forgiveness.

• Jesus rejects keeping _____.

• Jesus calls for a forgiving _____.

• Confront sin and maintain appropriate boundaries.

Matthew 18:15–22

Forgiveness cannot be reduced to a tally.

II. Jesus Reveals the Extraordinary Mercy of the King.

MATTHEW 18:23–27

• The servant owes an _____ debt.

Matthew 18:23–25

• He pleads for _____.

• The king acts with _____.

• The king releases him and cancels the debt.

The servant asks for time; the king grants forgiveness.

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III. Jesus Warns Against Refusing to Extend Mercy.

MATTHEW 18:28–35

• The servant received mercy but _____ to extend it.

Matthew 18:28–30

• Jesus warns of divine _____.

Matthew 18:34–35

• Forgiveness must come from the _____.

• Struggling to forgive differs from hardened refusal.

• Forgiveness does not automatically restore trust, eliminate accountability, or require unsafe reconciliation.

God’s extraordinary mercy calls us to extend mercy.

REFLECTION & RESPONSE

1. How should remembering God's mercy change the way we respond when others sin against us?

2. What is the difference between struggling to forgive and deliberately refusing to forgive?

3. What response does Jesus’ mercy call for in your heart?

The One who teaches Peter to forgive is the Savior through whom forgiveness is secured.