



# REPLENISHED – Forgiveness Matters 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

## Connect:

1. Why 'forgiveness'?
2. What does it take to forgive?
3. Who do you need to forgive?
4. Who has lied to you, lied about you, taken advantage of you, mistreated you...in small things or big?
5. What's your natural response?

## Engage:

6. Read [Luke 7:41-43](#)
  - Context of this parable: In Luke 7:36-40 *the sinful woman anoints Jesus – alabaster Jar (Wedding) – Pharisee criticism of Jesus 'If he were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman she was.'* (Jesus knew – her heart melted)
    - Forgiveness is always our choice
    - Everyone needs forgiveness from someone else at some point
    - Everyone needs forgiveness from God (which releases you from the power of sin)
    - Some have had very big debts forgiven
    - Jesus illustrates forgiveness twice in the parables using financial thoughts
7. How and why does forgiveness change lives?
8. Read [Luke 7:44-48](#)
9. Do we really need to forgive? How and why?
10. What if someone is still doing things that are unforgiveable?
11. Why do we find forgiveness so difficult?

**"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love."**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

12. What impact have you seen because of showing forgiveness?

## Framework:

13. What are you not forgiving?

14. Read [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

15. **Dangerous spiral can form:**

- **Unforgiveness:** is a choice - Anger hardens our heart (Proverbs 29:8)
- **Resentment:** drives more bitterness, blame (Job 5:2). Beware of social media – don't use it to attack others!
- **Revenge:** destroys us and many more people (Romans 12:19)

**"Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies."**

Nelson Mandela

16. Read [Genesis 50:20](#)

- Joseph - 'steal, kill, destroy' (Spiritual / physical enemy)
- As Joseph learned to forgive – God revealed His plan through Joseph
- At every step the 'enemy' was looking to steal, kill and destroy

17. Read [John 10:10](#)

18. What areas of Joseph's life stand out as a good example of his response in times of great pressure?

19. Read [Matthew 18:23-27](#)

- Kingdom forgiveness shows mercy and releases us and also releases others
- Unforgiven servant refused mercy to his debtor (100 days work)
- King demanded the original debt be paid in full

20. Read [Matthew 18:28-35](#)

21. What can we do to encourage forgiveness to find a place in our hearts?

<b>What Forgiveness does NOT do:</b>
<b>Diminish</b> the seriousness of what's done,
<b>Develop</b> relationship blindly (boundaries will be needed)
<b>Deny</b> what has happened (forget that damage was done)
<b>Depend</b> on the other person's response (forgiveness will not feel fair, but it's <u>about being merciful</u> )

22. What examples of each of the above areas relate to your life?

*God acts in Mercy to us.*

"He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

Psalm 103:10-12 NLT

23. Read [Matthew 5:43-44](#)
24. How can you humanly love your enemies?
25. Read [Matthew 6:14-15](#)
26. How can you forgive those who deliberately sin against you?
27. Read [Colossians 3:13](#)

“Society has forgotten about the power to forgive... We live in a blame culture.”

Tom Wright (Prof. Wycliff College, Oxford)

28. What does it mean to forgive?
  - **Give to Others:** What Christ has given us
  - **Gospel:** About “receiving forgiveness and giving forgiveness...”
  - **Grace:** Lord’s Prayer... “[Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.](#)”
29. Why does God ask us personally to forgive?
30. How much forgiveness do others deserve? How much freedom do you desire?

## Conclusion:

- **Forgiveness Matters! It Matters to God, to others and me!**
- Is there an area that you need to forgive or be forgiven?
- Choose faith that forgives!