

repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> 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.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

“We realize that it is not up to us to take revenge on others who have wronged us, or even to want to do so, because God has reserved that right for himself...In this way whenever we have been wronged, we can give into God’s hands any desire to harm or pay back the person who has wronged us, knowing that every wrong in the universe will ultimately be paid for – either it will turn out to have been paid for by Christ when he died on the cross (if the wrongdoer becomes a Christian), or it will be paid for at the final judgment (for those who do not trust in Christ for salvation). But in either case we can give the situation into God’s hands, knowing that he will someday right all wrongs and give absolutely fair rewards and punishments.” **Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1147**

## REASON #2: To Keep \_\_\_\_\_ Out.

**2 CORINTHIANS 2:10-11:** “If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, <sup>11</sup> in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

**EPHESIANS 4:26-27:** “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.”

## REASON #3: To be \_\_\_\_\_.

**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. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

**MATTHEW 18:21-35:** “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?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup> The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup> “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. <sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ <sup>30</sup> “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup> In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup> “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

“A transformed heart must result in a changed life that offers the same mercy and forgiveness as has been received from God. Someone who does not grant forgiveness to others shows that his own heart has not experienced God’s forgiveness.” **ESV Study Bible Notes on Matthew 18:35**

## REASON #4: To be Like \_\_\_\_\_.

**EPHESIANS 4:32:** “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

**COLOSSIANS 3:13:** “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

**ROMANS 5:8:** “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**KEY QUESTION:** *Who did Jesus forgive?*

**LUKE 23:34:** “Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

### EXAMPLES OF JESUS’ FORGIVENESS

- Mark 2:1-12
- Luke 7:34-50
- Luke 15
- John 7:53-8:11
- Luke 18:9-14

## REASON #5: To be \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

**HEBREWS 12:1:** “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

### Final Thoughts

Do you have someone you need to forgive?

Will you let it go?

## HEROES OF THE FAITH: Lessons From the Lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph Today’s Message: “Let it Go!”

Genesis 27-33

02.22.09 / SMC / Pastor Cory Anderson

### INTRODUCTION:

**GENESIS 27:34-36:** “When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me—me too, my father!”<sup>35</sup> But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.”<sup>36</sup> Esau said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he’s taken my blessing!”

**GENESIS 27:41:** “Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

### 20 Years Later...

**GENESIS 33:1-4:** “Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two maidservants.<sup>2</sup> He put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear.<sup>3</sup> He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.<sup>4</sup> But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.”

## 5 REASONS TO LET IT GO

### REASON #1: To Let God \_\_\_\_\_.

**ROMANS 12:17-21:** “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.<sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will