

Christmas Is Forgiving

(Genesis 45:1-3 NLT) *“Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, ‘Out, all of you!’ So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace. ‘I am Joseph!’ he said to his brothers. ‘Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them.”*

How To Forgive

1. Choose to _____

(Luke 23:34a NLT) *“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.’”*

- ▶ Pray for God to heal their _____.
- ▶ Pray for God to _____ them.
- ▶ Pray for God to _____ them.

(Luke 6:28 NLT) *“Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”*

2. Choose to _____

(Matthew 6:14-15 NLT) *“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

(Matthew 18:21-22 NLT) *“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’”*

- ▶ **CRITICAL QUESTION:** Who is it that you **HAVE NOT** forgiven?

- ▶ How do you forgive? _____ on how God has _____ you.

(Colossians 3:13 NLT) *“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

3. Choose to _____

(Romans 12:19-21 NLT) *“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the Lord. Instead, ‘If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.’ Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”*

(Luke 6:27-28 NLT) *“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”*

(Genesis 45:1 NLT) *“Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, ‘Out, all of you!’ So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was.”*

(Genesis 45:24-25 NLT) *“Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.”*

- ▶ **CRITICAL QUESTION:** Who needs your _____?

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How To Forgive

1. Choose to PRAY

(Luke 23:34a NLT) *“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.’”*

- ▶ Pray for God to heal their HURT.
- ▶ Pray for God to FORGIVE them.
- ▶ Pray for God to BLESS them.

(Luke 6:28 NLT) *“Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”*

2. Choose to FORGIVE

(Matthew 6:14-15 NLT) *“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

(Matthew 18:21-22 NLT) *“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’”*

- ▶ **CRITICAL QUESTION:** Who is it that you HAVE NOT forgiven?
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- ▶ How do you forgive? FOCUS on how God has FORGIVEN you.

(Colossians 3:13 NLT) *“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

3. Choose to BLESS

(Romans 12:19-21 NLT) *“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the Lord. Instead, ‘If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.’ Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”*

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- ▶ **CRITICAL QUESTION:** Who needs your BLESSING?
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