Powerful Parables of Jesus
The Power of Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV) The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant *21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who 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 bags of gold 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 "At this 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 silver coins. 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 it 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 outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he sa*id, '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 handed 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 or sister from your heart."*

Matthew 5:44 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, Matthew 6:12 (NIV) 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:15 (NIV) 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

What do we do with this admonition, this commandment to forgive, when it comes to our enemies? - Never Forget!

How we might love our enemies, or why we should love them.

- Look at ourselves first
- Look for the good in our enemies
- If the opportunity arises to destroy your enemies, don't!
- Unforgiveness and Hates destroys our personalities
- Love, not hate has redemptive power!

Notes