

Held Hostage by the Size of the Offense

Free Yourself to Love: Chapter 4

ICON KEY

 Question/Discuss

 Read The Bible

 Read FYTL

 Watch the Video



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A Common Excuse for not forgiving—the Offense Was Too Great. pp. 63, 64



Geske story. pp. 63,64



The only unforgivable sin is the one I won't forgive. p. 64



What do you think about Susanne Geske's forgiving response to the murderous mutilation of her husband by three young men? Does her story inspire you somehow?



Passage that confronts this excuse (6 billion \$ debt). pp. 65-67



Matt. 18:23-35



Are you distressed when you see an “unforgiving” Christian? (Matt. 18:31) p. 65



Servant forgiven great debt, could not forgive marginal debt. p. 66



Matt. 18:30



God distressed with our unforgiving heart—described as “wicked.”



“I don’t want to be on the wrong side of the Master’s anger.” p. 67



Matt.18:32, 33

Note: We call what was done to us—wicked; but we never imagine calling our unforgiveness wicked.



Matt. 18:34, 35

[Q] Describe an offense you find “unforgivable.” Does God agree that it is “unforgivable?” How do you know?

 Forgiveness is a gift you give not only the offender but also yourself.
p.68

Forgive—Greek--*Apoluno*: free fully, relieve, dismiss, let die, divorce, loose, set at liberty. p.68



Luke 6:37

[Q] The Greek word translated “forgiveness” means “free fully, relieve, dismiss, let die, pardon, divorce, loose, and set at liberty.” Which of these definitions best describes the way you forgive?

 The Flushing Brigade. pp. 69, 70

Activity: Write on T.P. the initials of those you may need to forgive and flush it tonight!

 Behind the excuse of unforgiveness is a serious “lack of faith.” p. 70



Rom. 14:23

[Q] Have you ever considered that struggling with forgiving someone is not only a sin issue but a faith issue?

 Forgiveness requires obedience that is fueled by faith. p. 70



 Are you “*Sallah*”? Are you ready to forgive? p. 70



Ps. 86:5

Activity: write the initials of those you need to forgive...initials only!

 How does one Grow in Faith? (Amplified in chap. 11) p. 71



Rom. 10:17; Ps. 19:11

 Whoever I refuse to forgive is controlling me right now—Read: story of Dr. Seamands. pp. 71, 72

 Forgiveness and Reconciliation are not the same. pp. 72, 73

 “I can forgive people who have never repented by letting go and no longer being preoccupied with their offense and lack of repentance. Reconciliation involves their repentance—and that is a God-sized event!” Spiritually MYOB! p. 73



I Pet.4:15

[Q] *Discuss the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. Did you see them as synonymous before reading this chapter?*

