



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 24

**Lesson Title:** Forgiveness Unlimited – Praying for Pardon

**Take Home Point:** Forgive others as God has forgiven us.

#### **Warm-Up:**

Imagine I am extremely wealthy. (You'll really have to use your imagination!) I come to you with an offer. I tell you, "I would like to do something for you, but I need you to do something, too. Here's my offer. I want to give you as much of my wealth as you need. I have set up an account in your name connected to mine. From your account, you can withdraw one dollar at a time, either for yourself or to give to someone else. Each time you withdraw one dollar in order to give it away, I will automatically transfer two dollars to your account, one for you to keep and another to give away again. So you see, I will provide for your immediate needs, and each time you give to another, you both gain. Does that seem like a good deal to you? Are you interested?" What do you think? Is that a good deal?

**Read:** Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

According to Matthew 18:27, what three things did the servant's master do?

Who saw the behavior of the wicked servant?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

Why do you think Peter asked the question he did in the way he did?

What did Jesus mean in Matthew 18:35?

#### **Insight:**

Do you know how important forgiveness of others is to God? Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:14-15: *"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* (NIV) That's pretty serious. Paul gives us another good idea in 1 Corinthians 11:23-33. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he talks about our participating in the Lord's Supper. He tells the Corinthians to make sure they are in right relationship *with each other* in order to be worthy to commune through that sacrament. So we know forgiveness is important to God. Why is it so important? Because God's work in and through us is all about reconciliation—reconciliation both to God and to other human beings. He seeks right relationships for his people, that cannot be if we harbor resentment, anger, gracelessness, lack of mercy, bitterness, or ill will toward others. When those negative qualities exist in us, they get in the way of our relationships – not just with the people we refuse to forgive, but also with everyone, including God! That's why he wants us to forgive.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

Take some time to thank God for his forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Who do you need to forgive again and again and again?

Kingdom Quest year 2