



March 09, 2008

## What To Do When Angry People Come After You

(How to get good at letting people off the hook)

(SERIES: **Angry In America: 04 of 05**)  
by Dr. David Foster

"Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Sir, **how often should I forgive a brother who sins against me?** Seven times?' 'No!' Jesus replied, '*seventy times seven!* The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him \$10 million! He couldn't pay, so the king ordered him sold for the debt, also his wife and children and everything he had. But the man fell down before the king, his face in the dust, and said, 'Oh, sir, be patient with me and I will pay it all.'" Then the king was filled with pity for him and released him and forgave his debt. But when the man left the king, he went to a man who owed him \$2,000 and grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. The man fell down before him and begged him to give him a little time. "Be patient and I will pay it," he pled. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and jailed until the debt would be paid in full. Then the man's friends went to the king and told him what had happened. And the king called before him the man he had forgiven and said, "You evil-hearted wretch! Here I forgave you all that tremendous debt, just because you asked me to--shouldn't you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?" Then the angry king sent the man to the torture chamber until he had paid every last penny due. **So shall my heavenly Father do to you if you refuse to truly forgive your brothers.**" (Mat 18:21-35)

### 2 Facts About Forgiving

God's forgiveness is always **a gift**, never an **an obligation**.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, **IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD**-- not by works, so that no one can boast." (Eph 2:8-9)

**My forgiveness too is a gift, but always an obligation.**

"Your heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive those who sin against you; but if you refuse to forgive them, he will not forgive you." (Mat 6:14-15)

*Only the unforgiven can't forgive.*

Sign up for weekly updates @ [www.thegatheringfranklin.com](http://www.thegatheringfranklin.com)

### 3 Rewards Of Forgiving

Forgiving others **frees me**.

Forgiving others **pleases God**.

"But I say: Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way you will be acting as true sons of your Father in heaven." (Mat 5:44-45)

Forgiving others **is a constant reminder**.

"Yes, I will bless the Lord and not forget the glorious things he does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me." (Psa 103:2-3)

### 3 Signs You're Stuck In Victim Mode

I retell the story looking for **sympathy**.

I long for and obsess over **payback**.

When I see them, I **hide**.

### The Mechanics Of Forgiveness

Identify what has been **taken**.

Define the **debt**.

Cancel the **debt**.

Release the **debtor**.

Give up the **victim's seat**.

Let God **balance the scales**.

"Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord—rejoice in his presence! Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. . . ." (Psalm 68:4-6 NLT)

Read Dr. Foster's daily blog @ [www.davidfoster.tv](http://www.davidfoster.tv)