

**'TIS THE SEASON**  
"Tis the Season to Forgive"  
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**Matthew 1:18-21; 18:21-35 (ESV)**

### **WHAT FORGIVENESS IS:**

To forgive is to **release an undeserving offender** from personal obligation to you (even though that person will have to face the justice of God). (Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32).

### **WHAT FORGIVENESS LOOKS LIKE**

1. **Resisting revenge** and not returning evil for evil (Romans 12:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:15).
2. Wishing them **well** (Luke 6:28).
3. **Not rejoicing** at their distress (Proverbs 24:17).

4. **Helping** them in their time of need (Exodus 23:4).
5. **Praying** for their welfare (Matthew 5:44).
6. **Seeking reconciliation** as far as it depends on you (Romans 12:18).

### **THE BASIS FOR FORGIVENESS**

How much **I have been forgiven by God** (Matthew 18:32-33).

- Forgiveness is possible when I change my perspective from how I have been wronged to how I have been forgiven.
- Grace received demands that grace be given.

### **CENTRAL TRUTH**

Christmas is the season to forgive my offender just like God has forgiven me.