

A word cloud on a white background, set against a light yellow background with a subtle wavy pattern. The words are arranged in a horizontal, cloud-like shape. The most prominent words are 'Jesus' (large, grey, serif font at the top), 'forgiveness' (large, red, serif font on the left), and 'forgive' (large, black, serif font on the right). Other words include 'work' (red, serif), 'one' (red, serif), 'times' (red, serif), 'life' (black, serif), 'lives' (red, serif), 'must' (black, serif), 'seven' (black, serif), 'habit' (black, serif), 'practice' (black, serif), 'many' (black, serif), 'think' (black, serif), 'offense' (black, serif), 'choice' (black, serif), 'forgiving' (black, serif), 'death' (black, serif), 'freedom' (black, serif), 'knows' (black, serif), 'like' (black, serif), 'time' (black, serif), 'want' (black, serif), 'know' (black, serif), 'required' (black, serif), 'comes' (black, serif), 'unlovely' (red, serif), 'love' (black, serif), 'others' (black, serif), 'binds' (black, serif), 'Peter' (red, serif), 'natural' (black, serif), 'God' (black, serif), 'person' (black, serif), 'Forgiveness' (black, serif, vertical on the right), and 'people' (black, serif, at the top right).

TRUE FORGIVENESS

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Forgiveness -to grant
pardon for or remission
of (an offense, debt,
etc.); absolve.

GEN 3:16-20 (NCV)

16 Then God said to the woman, "I will cause you to have much trouble when you are pregnant, and when you give birth to children, you will have great pain. You will greatly desire your husband, but he will rule over you."

GEN 3:16-20 (NCV)

17 Then God said to the man, "You listened to what your wife said, and you ate fruit from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat. "So I will put a curse on the ground, and you will have to work very hard for your food. In pain you will eat its food all the days of your life.

18 The ground will produce thorns and weeds for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

GEN 3:16-20 (NCV)

19 You will sweat and work hard for your food. Later you will return to the ground, because you were taken from it. You are dust, and when you die, you will return to the dust."

20 The man named his wife Eve, because she is the mother of everyone who has ever lived.

FORGIVENESS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- God forgave Adam and Eve, but they were not restored to their previous state
- Even though you forgive, the relationship may never be the same

MATTHEW 6:12, 14-15 (NCV)

12 Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.

14 Yes, if you forgive others for their sins, your Father in heaven will also forgive you for your sins.

15 But if you don't forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.

HOLDING IN RESENTMENT

- Harboring unforgiveness can bring physical problems
- If you do not forgive, God may allow you to suffer when you need forgiveness
- God made us all different, and that is good.

MATTHEW 18:21-22

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, when my fellow believer sins against me, how many times must I forgive him? Should I forgive him as many as seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, you must forgive him more than seven times. You must forgive him even if he does wrong to you seventy-seven times.

GENUINE FORGIVENESS

- God calls us to continually forgive others without measure
- God forgives our sin without measure

MATTHEW 18:23-35

23 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him.

24 When the king began to collect his money, a servant who owed him several million dollars was brought to him.

25 But the servant did not have enough money to pay his master, the king. So the master ordered that everything the servant owned should be sold, even the servant's wife and children. Then the money would be used to pay the king what the servant owed.

MATTHEW 18:23-35

26 "But the servant fell on his knees and begged, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.'

27 The master felt sorry for his servant and told him he did not have to pay it back. Then he let the servant go free.

28 "Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him a few dollars. The servant grabbed him around the neck and said, 'Pay me the money

MATTHEW 18:23-35

29 "The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.'

30 "But the first servant refused to be patient. He threw the other servant into prison until he could pay everything he owed.

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very sorry. So they went and told their master all that had happened.

MATTHEW 18:23-35

32 "Then the master called his servant in and said, 'You evil servant! Because you begged me to forget what you owed, I told you that you did not have to pay anything.'

33 You should have showed mercy to that other servant, just as I showed mercy to you.'

MATTHEW 18:23-35

34 The master was very angry and put the servant in prison to be punished until he could pay everything he owed.

35 "This king did what my heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

- If God provides forgiveness through salvation, we must forgive others over small things
- The parable shows the gap between what God has forgiven with us and what we must do

JOHN 3:16

16 "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.