

## ***The “F” Word*** **“Forgiving Others”**

**Luke 23:34:** *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*”

**Prov. 19:11:** *“A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.”*

### **How Can I Forgive Those Who Have Hurt Me?**

1. By ***fast forwarding*** to where un-forgiveness will take me; i.e., being miserable & hurting my vertical and horizontal relationships.
  - **Matt. 6:15:** *“But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*
  - **Matt. 18:32-35:** *“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’<sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’<sup>34</sup> In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.<sup>35</sup> This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”*
  - **Eph. 4:31-32:** *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*
2. By disengaging from my natural tendency to hold a grudge or get revenge & instead ***going radical***, choosing to demonstrate love instead of hate.
  - **Rom. 12:19-21:** *“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.<sup>20</sup> On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*
  - **Luke 6:27-28:** *“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”*
3. By determining to grant those who have hurt me the ***undeserved grace*** of forgiveness when through their repentance I am given the opportunity.
  - **Col. 3:13:** *“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*
  - **Luke 17:3-5:** *“If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.<sup>4</sup> If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’”*