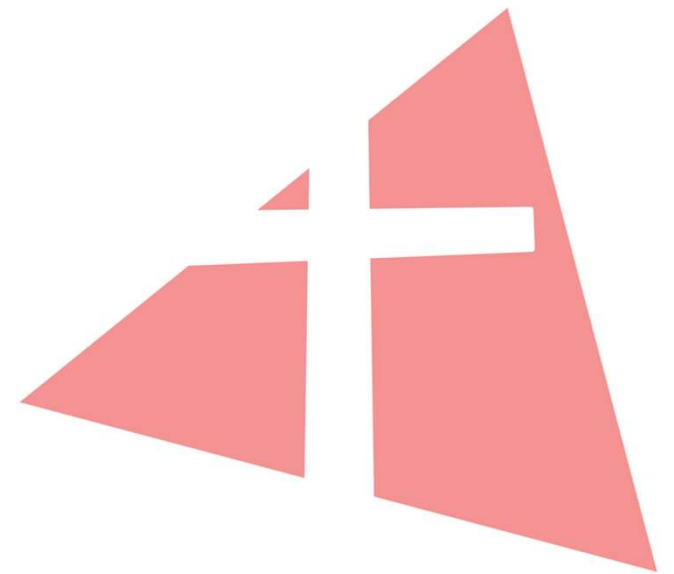


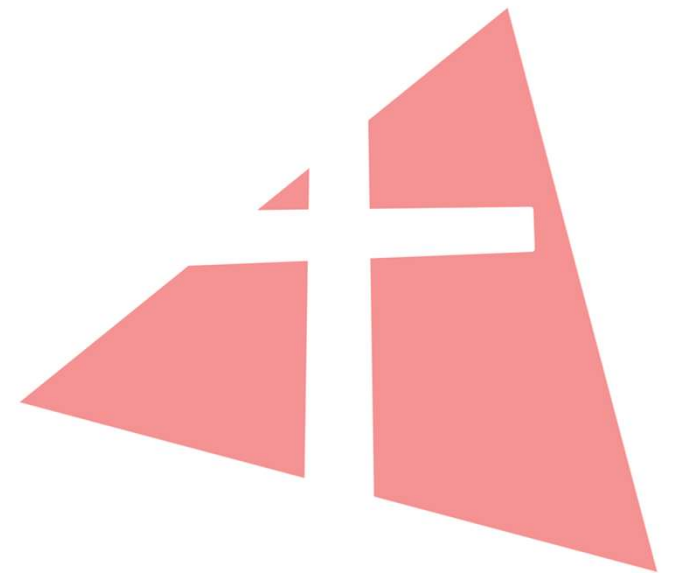
# Encountering God: Forgiving Others

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2022



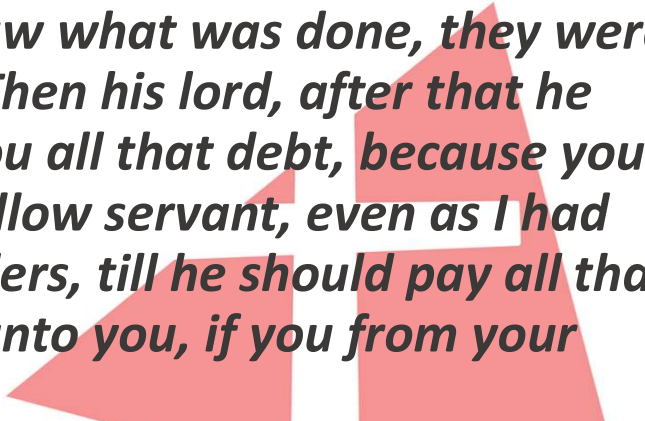
# Our Focus these weeks: God's Forgiveness

- **The Parable of the Forgiving Master**
  - Matt. 18



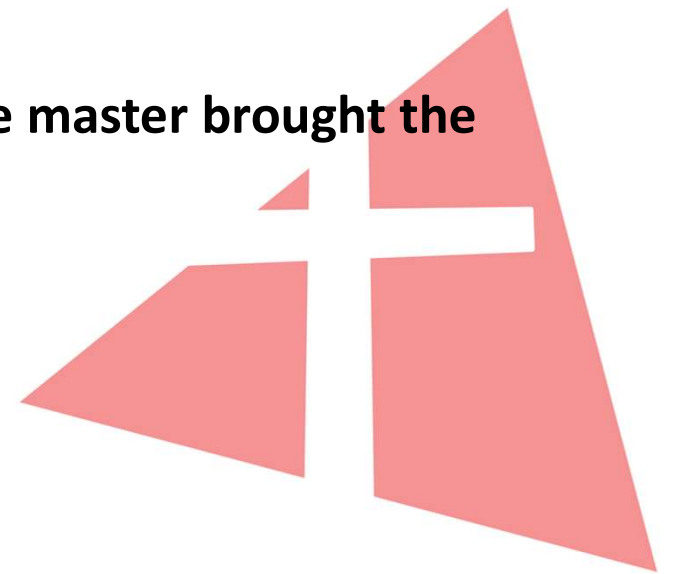
# The Parable

*Matthew 18:28-35 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him a hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay you all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O you wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt, because you desired me: Should not you also have had compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you? And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if you from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.*



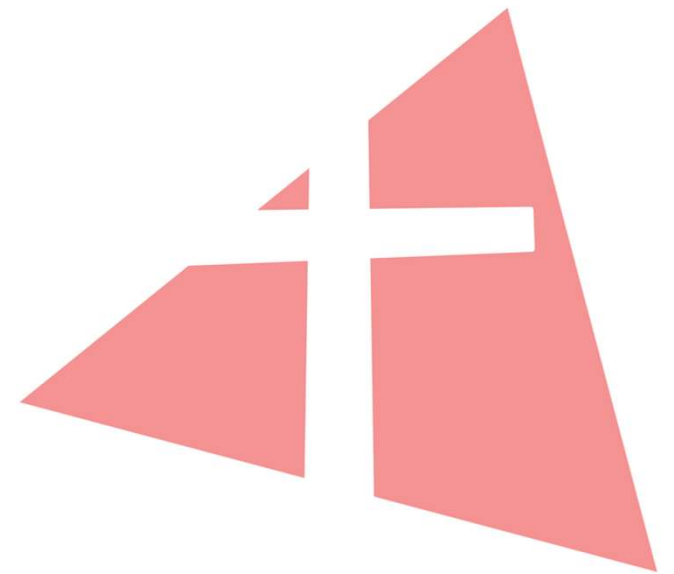
# In a nutshell

- **The master had forgiven the servant's debt**
- **But when the servant refused to forgive his fellow servant, the master brought the punishment for his debt back on the table**



# The proper response

- **This servant already received the resources to forgive others**



# The problem

- His unforgiveness was evidence that he didn't receive his own forgiveness from the heart



# A proper response

*I don't need what you owe me, because my master gives me everything I need (and don't deserve, and so much more)*

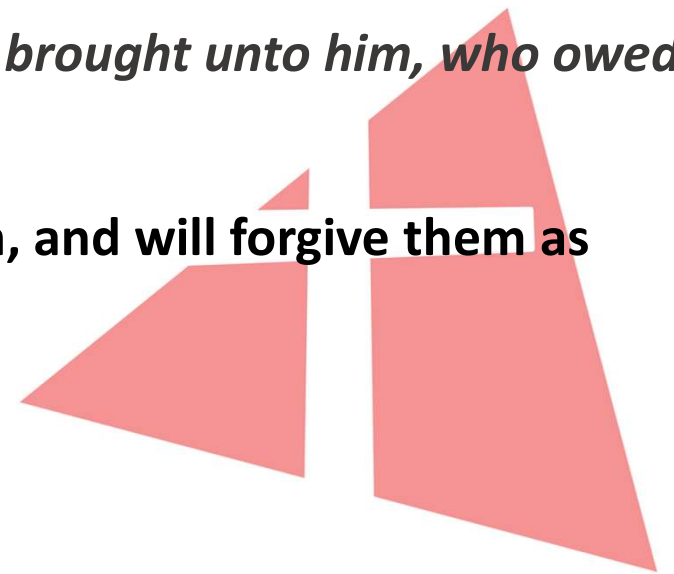


# One more detail

- This servant was one of the first servants to be called

*Matthew 18:24 And when he had begun the reckoning, one was brought unto him, who owed him ten thousand talents.*

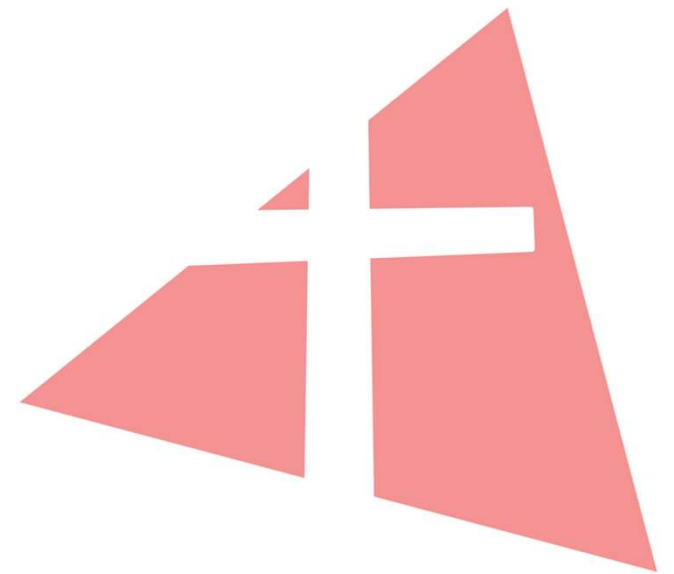
- He was supposed to tell everyone that the master forgave him, and will forgive them as well





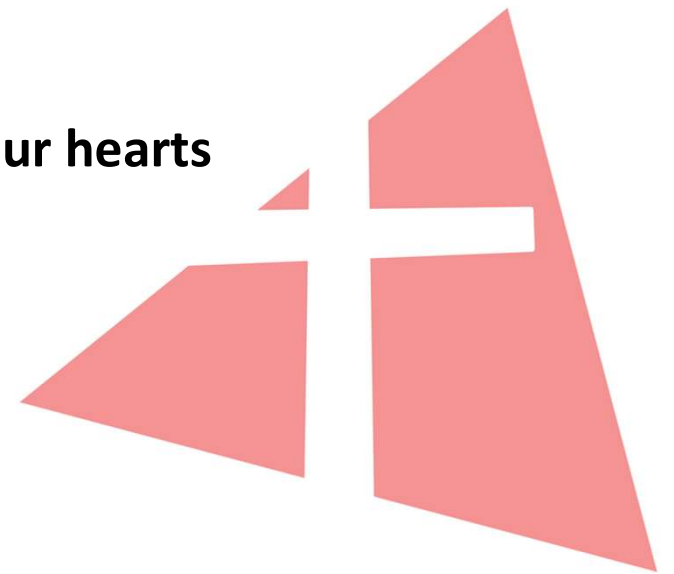
# The Consequence

- **The servant's intention was to punish his fellow servant**
- **The result was that the servant punished himself**



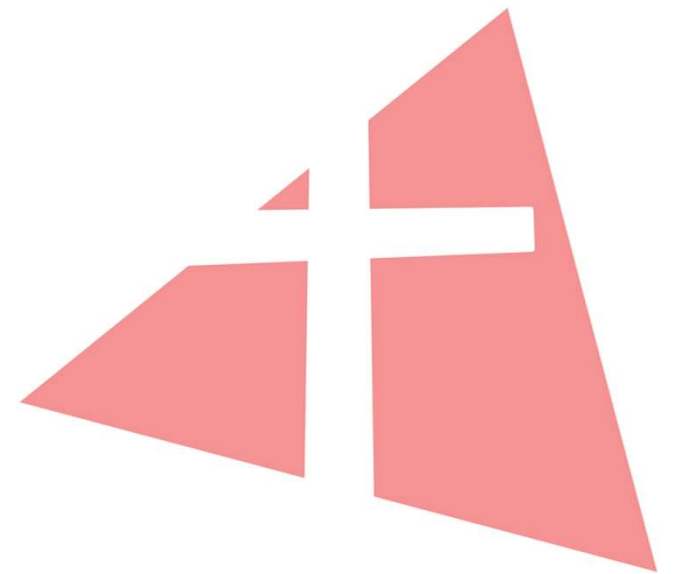
# Applikation

- **People will offend and hurt us**
- **Our response to “being offended and hurt” shows what is in our hearts**



# Our response to offenses

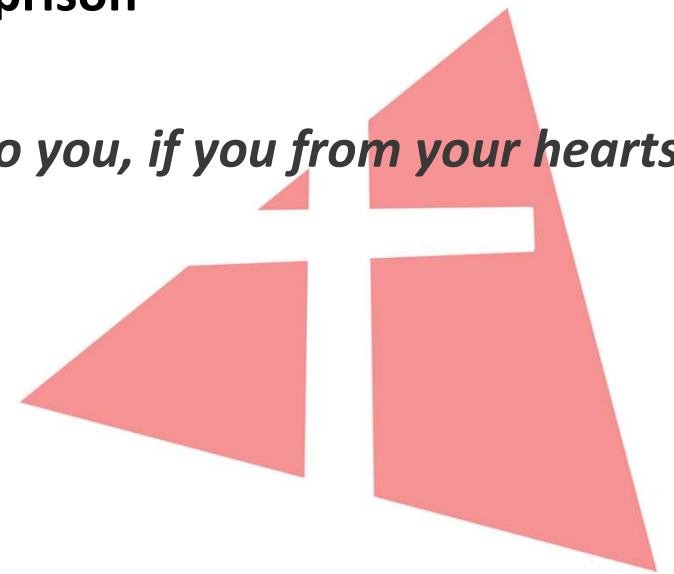
- **God expects us to reflect God's forgiveness to others**
  - Christians and non-Christians
- **Not reflecting God's forgiveness is an offense to God**



# The consequence for us

- When we don't forgive others, we put ourselves in a spiritual prison

*Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if you from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.*



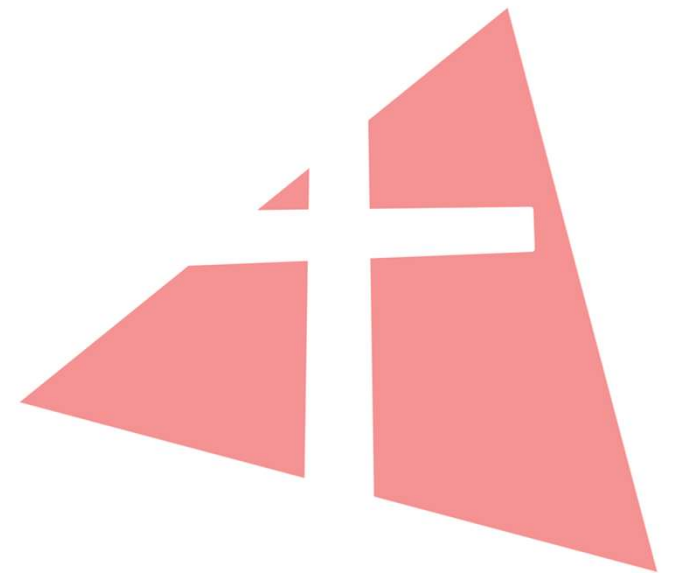
# Resources for Forgiveness

- **We receive the ability to forgive others by receiving our own forgiveness from God first**



# Evidence of Faith

- **Our ability to forgive is evidence of our Faith**

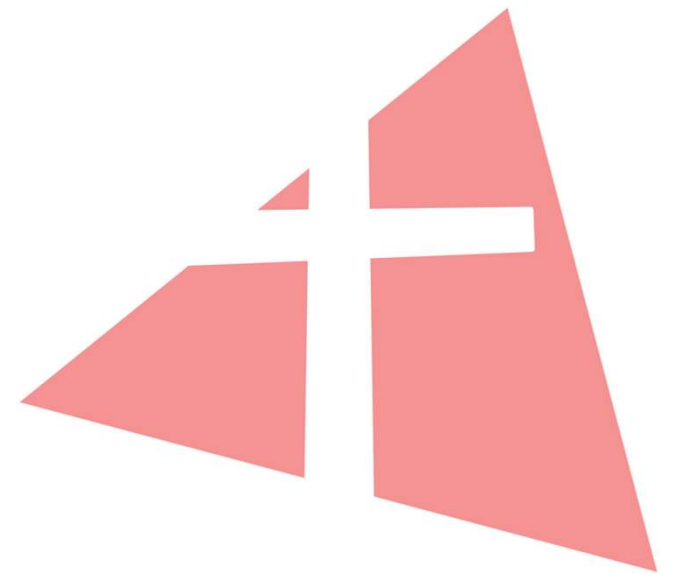


# What is Forgiveness?

- **Not**

- Denying the pain
- Pretending nothing ever happened
- Simply allowing others to hurt us over and over again
- Full and immediate restoration
- ...

- **Letting go of our right to revenge**



# Closing Questions

- **Does God bring someone to my mind that I haven't fully forgiven yet?**
  - Do I still have this desire in me to punish someone for what he/she did to me?

