

## The Cost of Forgiveness

---

Perhaps to your spouse or one of your children; perhaps to a coworker; or to a fellow Christian...  
When was the last time you sincerely and humbly ask, "Will you forgive ME?"

It was not the same as, "Pardon me." That is more like, "Ahem! May I have your attention" or  
"Excuse me" after a sneeze.

When you asked for forgiveness, what did you expect...today? Tomorrow? In the future?  
Were you forgiven?

"Forgive me" comes with a cost...but whose cost?

Perhaps your spouse or one of your children; perhaps a coworker; or a fellow Christian...  
When was the last time you were asked, "Would YOU forgive me?"

How did you feel when you were asked to forgive another person?

Would justice be served? (Would it be fair to you?)

Were you able to forgive, truly forgive?

What would your forgiveness require of you?

What would your forgiveness cost?

In this morning's lesson we will explore the 'Cost of Forgiveness.' Many things have been said and  
taught about forgiveness, yet questions linger.

What does God realistically expect of his people?

Just how important is it for Christians to extend forgiveness to others?

In today's text, Matthew 18, the Apostle Peter asked Jesus a simple question about forgiveness and  
then offered his own generous answer. Jesus replied. Then he continued to tell a parable that  
ended with a rather startling admonition. Within this parable we will find a divine definition of for-  
giveness and God's expectation for us today.

Mark Stinnett