

Title: The Big Payback

Text: Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

1. When you hear the word “forgiveness,” what emotions or experiences immediately come to mind? Why do you think forgiveness is something we love to receive but struggle to give?

2. How does reflecting on the cross and the forgiveness we’ve received from God help us forgive people who have hurt us deeply?

3. In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus contrasts a servant forgiven an unpayable debt with someone who owed a smaller payable debt.

- *What do you think Jesus is trying to help us see about our sin against God compared to the sins others commit against us?*

4. During the sermon the signs of unforgiveness were discussed, (replaying the offense, wishing harm on the person, or feeling morally superior)

- *Which of these signs do you think is/was most common in your life, and why can it be so hard to release bitterness?*

5. Is there someone in your life you may need to forgive or release to God? If so, which practical step could you take this week to move toward forgiveness?

- praying for them
- releasing the debt in prayer
- choosing not to rehearse the offense
- speaking well of them in their absence.