



Pastor Dave Patterson
BAGGAGE
Part 2: "Breaking Chains"
Sermon Small Group Notes

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than

We all have baggage; some of us just have more years of it.

Baggage: Something we pack or stuff other things into in order to take them with us

Emotional Baggage: Unhealthy emotions from our past that encumber one's freedom, progress, or development

Spiritual Baggage: Any area of your life that is unresolved, that has been pushed deep inside and hidden and is a **hindrance to your spiritual life and destiny**

God wants us healed, restored, & baggage free!

[Romans 12.17-18, NLT]

*Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. **Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.***

[2 Corinthians 6.3]

*We live in such a way that **no one will be offended because of us**, and no one will find fault with our ministry.*

[Ephesians 4.31-32, NLT]

***Get rid of all** bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

No mature Christian who is seasoned in the Word, has any reasonable right to live their life offended. - Brian Houston

[Matthew 18.21-35, NLT]

*Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” **“No, not seven times,”** Jesus replied, **“but seventy times seven!** **“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. “But the man fell***

down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

[Ephesians 4.26-27, NLT]

*And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for **anger gives a foothold to the devil.***

[Matthew 6.14-15, NLT]

*If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. **But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.***

When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner free, but you discover that the real prisoner was yourself.

- Lewis B. Smedes

[Mark 11.24-26, NLT]

*"I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. **But when you are praying, first forgive anyone** you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."*

Practical Steps to Forgiveness:

- 1. Decide**--Forgiveness is a fact not a feeling.
- 2. Declare**--We take action by agreeing with the Word.
- 3. Pray for them**--Take all reoccurring memories, doubts, and negative feelings back to the altar.

[Luke 6.28, NIV]

*"**Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**"*

4. Thank God!--Gratefulness for the cross and the freedom that is coming to your mind and emotions.

[Colossians 3.13, NIV]

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as The Lord forgave you.***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How easy or difficult is it for you to forgive?**
- 2. What happens (inside and outside) when people don't deal with hurt, bitterness, or offense, especially for long periods of time?**
- 3. In the Matthew 18 parable, which character most resembles you? Which character most resembles God? What perspectives and practical applications come out of this story?**
- 4. How does anger and unforgiveness give "legal ground" to the devil in our lives? How have we practically seen that?**
- 5. What effects do prayer for those who have hurt you and gratitude to God have on you forgiving others?**