

# Setting Your Heart

on the

# Kingdom



## THE LIFE OF JESUS... HIS TEACHINGS

### *490 Reasons to Forgive*

*(The Principle of the Miracle of Forgiveness)*

Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-22

*"I'll never forgive you for what you did to me! But even if I did, I'll never forget how you hurt me!"* Have you ever heard someone say this before? Maybe you've even said it yourself. Jesus knows how you feel...and He's got a solution for you. He, above everyone else, knew the feeling of treachery and abandonment. Listen to Jesus when asked how often we should forgive others. *"I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven"* (Matt. 18:21-22). **More than a natural calculation of 490, He meant the infinite value of God's forgiveness toward you!** But if that's not enough reasons for you to forgive, then listen to this: *"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions"* (Matt. 6:14-15)!

*Forgiveness is a miracle—it brought God's saving grace into your life.* Without His merciful forgiveness you would be eternally lost and destined for hell. Knowing this, God expects the same of you. But, you may ask, what if someone hurts me over and over again? Add this next declaration to your 490 reasons. *"If he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him"* (Luke 17:4). Jesus is not telling you to be a repeated victim. Learn from it and move on to receive God's miracle. **Forgiveness frees YOUR heart from the bondage of anger and vengeance.** The heart that harbors offenses becomes bitter. Forgiveness opens your heart to let the offense go. With the malignancy gone, you can then move on to better things in God.

Beloved, is there a stumbling block of un-forgiveness in your life? Has a close friend betrayed you? Forgive! Has your husband or wife hurt you deeply? Forgive! Has a father or a mother abandoned you leaving a deep scar of rejection? Forgive! Has a pastor or deacon disappointed you? Forgive! But, you say, what if they meant to hurt me and deserve punishment? Who knows...perhaps through your forgiveness, even in the face of purposeful hurt, they can see Christ in you (Luke 23:34). **In God's Kingdom, forgiveness really does produce miracles!**

**Next: The Kingdom of God in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus...The Judas Spirit**

