

LISTENER GUIDE

Forgiving As You've Been Forgiven

by Joni Eareckson Tada (True Woman '12)

Life isn't fair. Husbands cheat on wives . . . drunk drivers slam into schoolchildren at crosswalks . . . and rapists walk out of jail.

It's natural to think God is being _____ when He lets awful people run roughshod over you.

- One response—we have to _____ God for allowing the tragedy to happen.
- The Bible never directs us to forgive God. That implies He has done something wrong.
- Another response—God wanted to _____ the wrongdoing but _____. So we must take matters into our own hands to make certain that person is paid back in some way.

Story of Uriah the Hittite (2 Sam. 11–12)

- If you were the father of Uriah the Hittite, you'd be thinking God let David off the _____.
- But God didn't let David off the hook for the murder of Uriah. God put _____ on the hook.
- When it comes to justice, God takes it very personally. Absolutely no _____ will go _____.
- When Christ suffered, He was standing in _____.
- No one has ever offended or harmed or abused or wounded you more than you've done to Jesus.

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt. 18:23–34)

- Our problem—we don't see our debt as _____ (Ps. 36:2). In our blind conceit, we cannot see how wicked we really are, so everyone else's transgressions appear far greater than ours.
- Let God, the only wise Judge, be the one to hand out _____ for the harm done against you.
- Quit holding onto the bitterness that is hindering your relationship with Christ.
- True _____ won't come apart from your willingness to receive God's grace and extend it to others.

When you taste the mercies of God, when you know that you are the one who deserves to be nailed to a cross, it changes everything.

- "Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving

- you an example, so that you might follow in his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).
- There is no _____ in this world. We all may be “created equal” in the sense that we are sinners in need of redemption, but equality ends there.
 - God does not give us what we truly deserve, and that’s a good thing.

Justice is when we get what we do deserve, and that is hell. Mercy is when we do not get what we deserve, and that is salvation. Grace is when we get what we don’t deserve, and that is forgiveness, peace and joy, strength in our weaknesses, an audience with God through prayer, a home in heaven, an inheritance with Christ, and service in God’s kingdom for all of eternity, and so much more!

Message from Vicki Olivas

1. _____ the offense.
2. _____ the person.
3. _____ it. _____ it. _____ it.
4. _____ the person. Love them into the kingdom. _____ them into the kingdom.
5. Go on with _____.

Forgiveness clears a path for our lives to be content, but most of all it frees us to come purely before the throne of our wonderful Savior.

Will you show pity like that? Can you show compassion on those who have offended you? Can you forgive as Christ has forgiven you? Will you receive His mercy and not extend it to someone else?

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

Forgiving As You've Been Forgiven

by Joni Eareckson Tada (True Woman '12)

Life isn't fair. Husbands cheat on wives . . . drunk drivers slam into schoolchildren at crosswalks . . . and rapists walk out of jail.

It's natural to think God is being unjust when He lets awful people run roughshod over you.

- One response—we have to forgive God for allowing the tragedy to happen.
- The Bible never directs us to forgive God. That implies He has done something wrong.
- Another response—God wanted to prevent the wrongdoing but couldn't. So we must take matters into our own hands to make certain that person is paid back in some way.

Story of Uriah the Hittite (2 Sam. 11–12)

- If you were the father of Uriah the Hittite, you'd be thinking God let David off the hook.
- But God didn't let David off the hook for the murder of Uriah. God put Himself on the hook.
- When it comes to justice, God takes it very personally. Absolutely no evil will go unpunished.
- When Christ suffered, He was standing in our place.
- No one has ever offended or harmed or abused or wounded you more than you've done to Jesus.

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt. 18:23–34)

- Our problem—we don't see our debt as enormous (Ps. 36:2). In our blind conceit, we cannot see how wicked we really are, so everyone else's transgressions appear far greater than ours.
- Let God, the only wise Judge, be the one to hand out consequences for the harm done against you.
- Quit holding onto the bitterness that is hindering your relationship with Christ.
- True revival won't come apart from your willingness to receive God's grace and extend it to others.

When you taste the mercies of God, when you know that you are the one who deserves to be nailed to a cross, it changes everything.

- “Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”
- “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).
- There is no fairness in this world. We all may be “created equal” in the sense that we are sinners in need of redemption, but equality ends there.
- God does not give us what we truly deserve, and that’s a good thing.

Justice is when we get what we do deserve, and that is hell. Mercy is when we do not get what we deserve, and that is salvation. Grace is when we get what we don’t deserve, and that is forgiveness, peace and joy, strength in our weaknesses, an audience with God through prayer, a home in heaven, an inheritance with Christ, and service in God’s kingdom for all of eternity, and so much more!

Message from Vicki Olivas

1. Release the offense.
2. Forgive the person.
3. Forget it. Forget it. Forget it.
4. Love the person. Love them into the kingdom. Pray them into the kingdom.
5. Go on with living.

Forgiveness clears a path for our lives to be content, but most of all it frees us to come purely before the throne of our wonderful Savior.

Will you show pity like that? Can you show compassion on those who have offended you? Can you forgive as Christ has forgiven you? Will you receive His mercy and not extend it to someone else?