



I. INTRO/REVIEW

- A. Where we've been
- Forgiveness is a necessary fundamental of the Christian life

Luke 17:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them. ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

- The debt/debtor relationship
 - Because many of us are "working" for God's forgiveness, we try to make others work for our forgiveness.
- The parable of the path
 - The direction determines your destination

Matthew 24:10-12 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

II. UNFAIR

- A. The wrong side of fair
- You can never make fair out of something that's unfair, because unfair is never fair
- B. When it's personal

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT) ²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

- C. The story of Joseph is a story of overcoming "unfair"

III. DON'T STOP

- A. Betrayal
- Betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery
- B. Potiphar promotes him in Egypt and he becomes very powerful
- He was blamed unfairly for something he didn't do
- C. God used him to interpret two dreams
- Joseph was forgotten

IV. FORGIVING UNFAIR

- A. Being in an unfair situation doesn't release you of your responsibility
- B. For Joseph, it had been 20 plus years of forgiving unfair.

Genesis 41:50-52 (NLT) ⁵⁰ During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, the priest of On. ⁵¹ Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's



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When it's Unfair



family.” ⁵² Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, “God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief.”

C. Giving birth is uncomfortable

Lamentations 3:19-20 (NLT) ¹⁹ The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. ²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.

Lamentations 3:21 (NLT) ²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: ²² The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.