

## Outline

Choice #1 Admit you have a problem and ask God and others for help! ("vs. 3 *poor in spirit*")

Choice #2 Drop the mask "I'm okay" and let your unhappiness with yourself or life to motivate you to make some changes. (vs. 4 "*mourn*")

Choice #3 Let's God be your human whisperer. The wild stallion stops fighting the trainer and yields to the trainer's vision for his/her life. (vs. 5 "*the meek*")

Choice #4 Clear your conscience by coming clean with God and others. Accept God's forgiveness and forgive yourself. (vs. 8 "*pure in heart*")

Choice #5 Replace unhealthy choices, patterns, habits with healthy ones by reading scripture and bringing your choices in alignment with God's teaching. (vs. 6 "*hunger and thirst for righteousness*")

"God blesses the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Matthew 5:7

*If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector...*

*Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.*

*"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.*

*"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.*

*"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'*

*"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.*

*"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your*

*fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

*“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” Matthew 18:15-17, 23-35*

## I. Why it’s So Crucial to Forgive & Reconcile Relationships

*“When you failed to do it for the least of these, you failed to do it to me.” Matthew 25:45*

*“Of the seven deadly sins, anger is the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor the last tooth filled morsel of the pain you are giving back to them, in many ways is a feast fit for a King. The chief drawback is what you are wolfing down at the feast is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you.”*

*~Frederick Buechner*

Why Forgive:

1. It heals you and it heals relationships.
2. It’s a sign of your spiritual condition, that you have experienced saving grace.
3. It’s a sign of your spiritual future, It indicates where you are going!

## II. What Forgiveness & Reconciliation Is (vs. 27)

*“The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.” (vs. 27)*

1. *“He took pity on the person” - “To have ones heart go out to,”*

2. Cancelled the debt .

*“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)*

3. Let the person go.

*“Forgive one another as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13*