

# DEEP SIX STUDY

September 26th, 2021

## ***The Story Project – “A Peace That Overcomes Hurt and Hate”***

**MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS** (You can view the full message on Facebook or at [live.capecodchurch.com/live](https://live.capecodchurch.com/live))

**Opening:** “The Story” – the truth of God as presented in the Bible – has one overarching theme: God wants to (and has *always* wanted to) give us a gift – the gift of full, abundant, eternal life. If that’s true, though, The Story *must* show us a way to overcome hurt, pain and hate to find peace in our lives. Jesus offers a way – His way – to do just that, but it’s odd advice that goes against our very nature as humans.

### **1. The Prison of Pain (Matthew 18:21-34)**

- We don’t know the whole scenario in Matthew 18, but Peter’s question tells us that he’s been hurt repeatedly by someone close to him – and he’s had enough. He’s ready to hate, and he’s looking for Jesus’ permission to stop forgiving.
- In response, Jesus tells an extreme parable of forgiveness – and unforgiveness. He’s illustrating what forgiveness is supposed to look like in His kingdom (because of God’s forgiveness of us) – but also how our failure to forgive others locks us in a prison of pain.
- It’s not a story about money, per se; it’s a lesson about the effect of offense on our hearts – and it holds two big takeaways for us:
  - a. It’s easy to say we’ve forgiven an offense, but’s it’s very hard to actually do. Something happens in our heart when we’re hurt that’s hard to overcome.
  - b. If allowed to, hurt festers inside of us and becomes something else: hate. This is especially true if the offender doesn’t even acknowledge they’ve hurt us.

### **2. Odd Advice on Living Fully (Matthew 5:3-7, 43-45; Colossians 1:19-20)**

- Jesus responds to the problem of hurt and hate in our lives in an odd way, a way that doesn’t make sense from a human perspective. His advice: “Rejoice, because the last shall be first.”
- In the face of hurt and pain that comes from others, the way of Jesus says to love your enemy, pray for those who hurt you, forgive endlessly. This is the only way to overcome hurt and hate and find peace (wholeness) in your life.
- Our human response to that advice is reflexively defensive: “You don’t know my story, my hurt...I could never forgive...I *can’t*.” Jesus’ answer: “You *can*, because part of my gift of full life is the gift of peace. My gift changes everything; if you’ll just remember that, you can forgive.”
- Real peace comes only through Jesus, through the realization that I have forgiveness from God for all the “dents” – for all that I’ve done to hurt myself and others – so I can therefore choose to forgive others of the “dents” they’ve put in me.
- *Shalom* – God’s peace and wholeness – is the greatest gift God gives us. Through Jesus, I can have peace with God and peace with myself – and therefore with those who have hurt me.

## ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

*These passages may provide additional insights related to the subject of this week's message. Verses from NLT unless otherwise noted.*

Isaiah 43:25; Micah 7:18-20; John 14:27; John 16:33; Colossians 3:12-15; 1 Peter 3:8-12

Video of the Week: [Shalom/Peace](#) by the Bible Project

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. On a scale of 1-10, how much peace would you say you have in your life right now? Explain your answer.
2. Assuming you didn't answer "10" above, how much of your "peace gap" can be attributed to hurt/pain that someone else has caused you? How have you tried to overcome that?
3. Read Matthew 18:21-34 again. On its surface, at least, the Parable of Two Debtors seems to be about punishment – what will happen to us if we don't forgive. What, in your view and in light of the parable, ARE the consequences of our failure/refusal to forgive others?
4. How would you summarize the relationship between our ability to forgive others of the hurt/pain they've caused us and the peace (wholeness) that God promises? In other words, how, exactly, does forgiveness lead to peace?
5. "Peace" is a popular concept/ideal in the world today (possibly right behind "love" as most popular...). What would you say to someone who tells you "I'm striving for peace in the world, but I'm not interested in Jesus or God or religion"?
6. In light of this week's message, how would you respond to the person who says, "You don't know the hurt I've endured; I could never forgive that person...I just *can't*?"