



## FORGIVING

### Slide 1

Today we are going to talk about forgiveness. You have already had the opportunity to ask for forgiveness from your father, your mother, or your friend and **Slide 2** you were glad they forgave you and forgot what had happened.

Now let's say **Slide 3** it's a friend of yours who did something wrong towards you. You have a conversation and he tells you "what I did is wrong, **Slide 4** I beg your pardon"; **Slide 5** you forgive him and the matter is settled, it is forgotten. **Slide 6** If this happens **Slide 7** a 2nd time. You forgive. **Slide 8** But the 3rd, **Slide 9** 4th, **Slide 10** 5th time, **Slide 11** how will you react?

**Slide 12** Act as if everything is fine? But in fact, **Slide 13** something happened that puts a shadow, a separation between you and him, you were hurt. If you refuse to forgive him, or take revenge? You will not be real friends anymore. **Slide 14** You can also decide to forgive. This is what Jesus tells us to do; it's not always easy but he explains to us why in a parable. Pay close attention, Michel will tell it to us now. In the story, **Slide 15** the king represents **Slide 16** God and **Slide 17** the servants represent us, **Slide 18** you and me.

### Slide 19 THE EVIL SERVANT

**Slide 20** Here is the king! Here is the king! Announce the servants. **Slide 21** He is coming to find out what's going on in his kingdom!

One after the other, the servants appears before the king to tell him about their accounts. The problem is, **Slide 22** they have a lot of debt that they will have to pay back, **Slide 23** but How? One of them has an enormous debt: he owes **Slide 24** 10000 talents – millions of euros – but he carried on with his life without worrying about it. Perhaps he imagined that **Slide 25** the king would never ask him explanations about it or he thought he would find an arrangement:

**Slide 26** - So, my friend, what have you done? asks the king.

The servant, very embarrassed, has nothing to say, nothing to defend himself. He is confused, he knows he's done something wrong, and he's going to be condemned:

**Slide 27** - Since you cannot repay your debt, continues the king, you know what awaits you, what you deserve! Servants! Sell everything that belongs to him, sell his goods, his

properties and his family! **Slide 28** Sell everything that belongs to him so that he can pay me back! **Slide 29** The servant is devastated! He knows he's finished. And that's it's his fault, he has not paid his debts. **Slide 30** He throws himself to the feet of the king and kneels in front of him:

**Slide 31** - Be patient with me, O King! He begs, I'll pay you everything, you'll get all your money back! Have pity on me!

**Slide 32** It is impossible for him to reimburse and the king knows it well; in front of his distress and his supplications he has pity on his servant. He is a good king, full of compassion:

**Slide 33** - Go, he says, I cancel all of your debt, you don't owe me anything anymore,

**Slide 34** I forgive you.

The servant cannot believe his ears:

**Slide 35** - How is that possible, he says to himself? How can the king do such a thing? Now I don't owe him anything anymore, not a dime! He erased my debt. **Slide 36** The king has forgiven me everything. I could never have imagined such a thing. What a relief for me and my family!

Indeed, he is free, not because he deserves it, but because the King has granted him his pardon... Very happy, he goes and finds his family. Along the way **Slide 37** he sees a servant like him:

**Slide 38** - Here, here, he says to himself, but... I lent him a hundred deniers - a few hundred euros - Ah! But the rascal hasn't paid me back yet, **Slide 39** it's time to settle our accounts:

**Slide 40** - Hey, he says brutally, you owe me money, remember? And I want you to give it back to me without delay!

**Slide 41** - Listen to me, says the other, I can't at the moment, but I promise you, I will return it to you as soon as possible!

**Slide 42** - It is out of the question! Now is the time to pay me what you owe me!

**Slide 43** - Be patient, I'll pay you everything! I promise you, give me some time.

The servant is red with anger:

- I want my money now!

**Slide 44** The poor man throws himself at his feet and implores his mercy...

- Have mercy on me, I'll pay you, he begs

But nothing helps. The servant summons the guards and **Slide 45** has him sent to jail. Some people saw the scene.

**Slide 46** - It's a scandal, they say, you saw how he behaved! It is unacceptable! We cannot let that happen, it's too serious!

**Slide 47** They go and tell the king what happened.

If the king is very kind, he also likes justice, and we don't like to be laughed at.

He therefore calls for the wicked servant:

**Slide 48** - What did you do? he says to him. When you came to find me didn't **Slide 49** I listen to your pleas? Didn't I pardon you? Didn't I spare you? Don't I have you forgiven? And you, shouldn't you also have pity of your companion as I had pity on you? **Slide 50** You are a wicked man; you will be punished according to your wickedness!

And the wicked servant ended up in prison.

### **Slide 51** 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*Let's see what Jesus teaches us in this parable.*

*First, **Slide 52** the king wiped out his servant's debt, a huge debt he owed him he forgave, he erased everything!*

*The king of this story, do you know he represents God and the servants represent us. We all owe a debt to Him. Of course we do not owe money but **Slide 53** every time we disobey Him it is like a debt. We can't pay it and we deserve to be punished but if we sincerely ask Him for forgiveness, He is ready to give grace, to forgive us; **Slide 54** He erases our debt, our disobedience.*

*Some people might say, but that's not fair! That God should forgive us like that! It's too easy!*

*Do you know why He does it? **Slide 55** Because there is someone who has paid for us: it's Jesus, He was punished in our place. You understand why it is important to believe in Jesus and to love Him?*

*What is Jesus still telling us in this parable? That now that we are forgiven, **Slide 56** we too must forgive the one who asks us for forgiveness.*

*When God tells me "I forgive you", he also tells me "You do it too, and if it's too hard for you to forgive that you can't do it, ask me and I will help you".*

*You can read this story again **Slide 57** in the last part of the chapter 18 of the Gospel of Matthew.*

**Slide 58** 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

*To forgive is what God asks of us; being forgiven of our sins, we must forgive.*

*Forgiveness is proof of love, as is asking for forgiveness. It's not something natural with us, nor with our children. We can support them in this process and this learning of forgiveness and if we have been unfair to them let us ask their forgiveness.*

*Here is some food for thought that you can share with your children depending on their age.*

**Slide 59** What does it mean, "I forgave him"?

- **Slide 60** *I have nothing against him anymore*
- **Slide 61** *He hurt me but I let my anger, my bitterness go, even if I admit that I have been hurt*
- **Slide 62** *It may take a while for me to heal because it's not an easy thing to do, it's an injury*
- **Slide 63** *Here may be consequences for him because he is responsible for his actions but, for my part, **Slide 64** I decide not to take revenge.*

**Slide 65**