# Forgiving God's Way

Mark 11:25 • Matthew 18:15 • Luke 17:3–4 • Matthew 5:23–24

*The Offender and the Offended*

# Release It Before God

1

## RELEASE

Mark 11:25

*“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”*

| WHERE | WHO | REPENT FIRST? |
| --- | --- | --- |
| In prayer | You and God | No |

# Go to Your Brother

**2**

## GO

Matthew 18:15

*“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”*

| WHERE | WHO | REPENT FIRST? |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Face to face | You and him, alone | Yes: “if he hear” |

# Restore Without Limit

3

## RESTORE

Luke 17:3–4

*“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”*

| WHERE | REPENT FIRST? | LIMIT? |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Face to face | Yes: “if he repent” | None |

# Side by Side

| RELEASE<br>Mark 11:25 | GO<br>Matthew 18:15 | RESTORE<br>Luke 17:3–4 |
|---|---|---|
| **WHERE**<br>In prayer, before God | **WHERE**<br>Face to face, alone | **WHERE**<br>Face to face |
| **WHO**<br>You and God | **WHO**<br>You and your brother | **WHO**<br>You and your brother |
| **REPENT FIRST?**<br>No | **REPENT FIRST?**<br>Yes: “if he hear” | **REPENT FIRST?**<br>Yes: “if he repent” |
| **GOAL**<br>A clear heart | **GOAL**<br>Gain your brother | **GOAL**<br>Restore, no limit |

# The Pattern




**RELEASE** it before God

*Mark 11:25*

**GO** to your brother

*Matthew 18:15*

**RESTORE** when he repents

*Luke 17:3–4*

*Release is always required. Reconciliation takes two.*

# When You Did the Wrong

THE OTHER SIDE

## GO FIRST

Matthew 5:23–24

*"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."*

| WHERE | WHO DID WRONG? | WHO GOES FIRST? |
| --- | --- | --- |
| At the altar | You did | You do |

# Both Sides of Forgiveness

## When I've Been Wronged

**HEART**

**Release it before God**

*Mark 11:25*

**ACTION**

**Go and tell him his fault**

*Matthew 18:15*

**OUTCOME**

**Restore him when he repents**

*Luke 17:3–4*

## When I've Done Wrong

**HEART**

**Recognize it before God**

*Matthew 5:23*

**ACTION**

**Go and be reconciled**

*Matthew 5:24*

**OUTCOME**

**Then offer your gift**

*Matthew 5:24*

***Either way, I go first.***

# Remember This

1. I forgive in my heart whether they repent or not.
2. I am reconciled with them when they repent.
3. And when they repent, I don't keep count.
4. Whether I was hurt or did the hurting, I go first.

*"Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*
*Ephesians 4:32*