

sermon notes

August 23, 2026 | Mitchell Palermo, Messiah Bible Church | **Philemon**
“An Imprisoned Appeal” | **Philemon 8–16**

1) Forgiveness is _____ (v8–11)

2) Forgiveness is greater than _____ (v12–14)

3) Forgiveness is our _____ (v15–16)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

When is it appropriate to give a command rather than make an appeal? Are there types of relationships where one might only ever issue commands? Or only ever make appeals? Give some examples.

Why is forgiveness difficult?

What is the difference between forbearance and forgiveness? Why is forgiveness better than forbearance? How might a relationship be affected if only forbearance was practiced and never forgiveness?

GET PERSONAL

Have you ever realized in retrospect that you should have made an appeal rather than a command? What about the opposite?

Is there a relationship in your life where you consistently practice forbearance, but not forgiveness? Has that affected that relationship? What would it take for your forbearance to give way to forgiveness?

Is there someone that you need to forgive? Pray for that individual. Ask fellow believers to pray for you and hold you accountable to having a conversation with that person. Follow up with them after the conversation is over.

Is there a past hurt or disappointment in your life that you have seen God use for good? Is there a current struggle that you're having a hard time submitting to the Lord?

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What is different between the situation in 1 Corinthians 5:5 and Philemon? Why would Paul give a command in one, but made a humble appeal in the other?

Aside from Joseph, what are some other biblical examples of God working through suffering for the good of his people? In those examples how did God's people react? How does the Bible portray(interpret) their reactions?