

A person in a grey hooded robe is kneeling in a field of tall grass, holding a long wooden staff. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, with a large tree on the left and a line of trees in the background. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A Heart Like
God's

Part 19: The Heart of Forgiveness

27 “How have the mighty fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!”

11 Then *David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him.*

2 Samuel 1:11-12

NASB95

12 *They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son *Jonathan* and for the people of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.*

35 “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Matthew 18:35

NASB95

Forgiveness begins with an act
of the will — a choice to
set someone free from the
justice they deserve.

Forgiveness is complete when our heart is at peace that an offender may not face any consequence for his/ her actions, and we truly hope they are blessed by God..

Our extension of forgiveness
(and rejection of judgment) is
a continuation of Jesus'
ministry:

17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 3:17

NASB95

The devil is only an
accuser. He has no
authority to do anything
unless he finds a willing
judge and executioner.

David rejected serving those roles, and opened a seat of authority in the earth where mercy could triumph over judgment.

21 So Jesus said to them again,
“Peace *be* with you; *as the Father has
sent Me, I also send you.*”

John 20:21–23

NASB95

22 And when He had said this, He
breathed on them and *said to
them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 “*If you forgive* the sins of any, *their sins have been* forgiven them; *if you retain* the sins of any, they *have been* retained.”

Our forgiveness aligns us
with heaven's judgment that
the cross was sufficient to
remove the sins of the
whole world.

We have been delegated the authority to forgive sins, or to condemn "sinners." How we wield that authority determines whether heaven is welcome in a region.

17 Then David chanted with this
lament over Saul and Jonathan his
son,

2 Samuel 1:17-27

NASB95

18 and **he told *them* to teach the
sons of Judah *the song of the bow*;**
behold, it is written in the book of
Jashar.

19 “Your beauty, O Israel, is slain
on your high places! *How have the
mighty fallen!*

20 “*Tell it not* in Gath, *Proclaim it not* in the streets of Ashkelon, Or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, The daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

21 “O mountains of Gilboa, Let not
dew or rain be on you, nor fields of
offerings; For there *the shield of the
mighty was defiled*, The shield of
Saul, *not anointed with oil*.

22 “From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty, The bow
of Jonathan did not turn back, And
the sword of Saul did not return
empty.

23 “Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life, And in their death they were not parted; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

24 “O daughters of Israel, weep
over Saul, Who clothed you
luxuriously in scarlet, Who put
ornaments of gold on your apparel.

25 “How have the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is slain on your high places.

26 "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more wonderful Than the love of women.

David's song was not
"fake" or "unrealistic." He
just learned from God
how to separate wheat
from chaff.

David could lament the
death of his enemy
because

he had been with Him in
the Presence of God...

ministering to Him,
praying for Him, and
contending for God's
Heart for Him.

We know we have
forgiven from the heart
when we find authentic
compassion for the one
who wronged us.



In Wrath...

Remember Mercy