

Sermon Outline

Moving Out of 'Hate House' (Matthew 18:21-35)

Introduction: *'Hate House', USA & 'Battleground' Switzerland*

- I. WE FORGIVE FOR THE PEACE OF OUR OWN SOUL
 - A. Peter needed to learn this (vv. 21-22)
 - B. When we forgive, it is for our sake as well as theirs
 - C. Buddy Hackett: *"When you're home nurturing resentment & sulking, they're out dancing."*
 - D. Our lack of forgiveness poisons our own heart

- II. WE FORGIVE BECAUSE THE PAST IS PAST
 - A. Let's read between the lines re: Peter's "70x7" question to Jesus (vv.21-22)
 - B. Why allow the past to ruin the present & future?
 - C. Have you heard about the house with a line painted down the middle??
 - D. Jesus tells us to 'make the first move' experience the blessing

- III. WE FORGIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN
 - A. Jesus teaches Peter this with the parable of the unmerciful servant (vv.23-35)
 - B. When Peter really needed this lesson: when he denied Jesus before the crucifixion (Mtt. 26:69-75)
 - C. We need to believe & practice this "70X7" forgiveness today

Conclusion: *My favorite gravestone inscribed with a single word...*