



## “Why Forgive?”

Matthew 18:21-35

INTRODUCTION: *“Hate House” & “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’ and 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 (Matthew 26:69-75)
- C. We can believe & practice this “70x7” forgiveness today

CONCLUSION:

*My favourite gravestone inscribed with a single word . . .*