

Living in
FREEDOM

**10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,
that there may be food in my house.
Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty,
"and see if I will not throw open the
floodgates of heaven and pour out
so much blessing that there
will not be room enough to store it.**

MALACHI 3:10 (NIV)

**¹⁸ Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.**

**¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? I am making a way
in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.**

ISAIAH 43:18–19 (NIV)

The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of water ripples. The water is a deep teal or dark green color, and the ripples create a complex, organic pattern of light and dark lines that catch the light. The overall effect is one of movement and texture.

FINDING FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS



WE CAN FORGIVE EASIER WHEN WE
REMEMBER WE ARE FORGIVEN

23 For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle accounts, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought before him. 25 Since he did not have the money to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.

[MATTHEW 18:23–25 CSB]

26 At this, the servant fell facedown before him and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 Then the master of that servant had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan. 28 That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, 'Pay what you owe!'

[MATTHEW 18:26-28 CSB]

29 At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 But he wasn't willing. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed. 31 When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened.

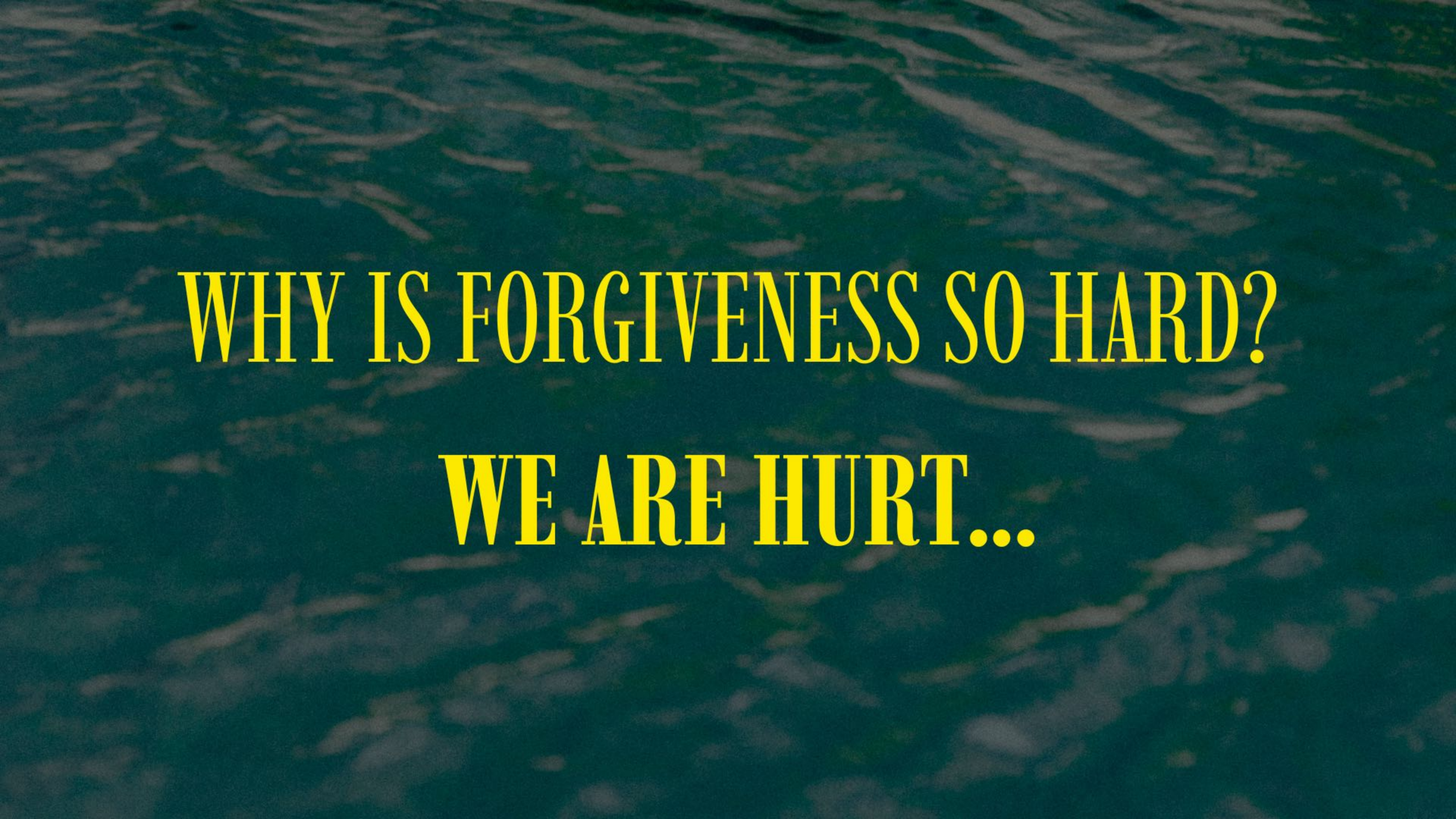
[MATTHEW 18:29-31 CSB]

32 Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? 34 And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed.

[MATTHEW 18:32-34 CSB]

35 So also my heavenly Father will do to you
unless every one of you forgives his brother or
sister from your heart.

[MATTHEW 18:35 CSB]



WHY IS FORGIVENESS SO HARD?

WE ARE HURT...



OUR BITTERNESS IS BONDAGE

Potential Physical Effects of Harboring Bitterness and Anger:

- High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Weakened immunity
- Increased inflammation
- Gut issues
- Chronic pain
- Insomnia

16 He ground my teeth with gravel and made me cower in the dust. 17 I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. 18 Then I thought, "***My future is lost, as well as my hope from the LORD.***"

[LAMENTATIONS 3:16–18 CSB]

19 Remember my affliction and my
homelessness, the wormwood and the
poison. 20 I continually remember them
and have become depressed. 21 Yet ***I call
this to mind, and therefore I have hope:***

[LAMENTATIONS 3:19–21 CSB]

22 Because of the ***LORD's faithful love*** we
do not perish, for ***his mercies never end.***
23 They are new every morning; great is
your faithfulness! 24 I say, "The LORD is my
portion, therefore I will put my hope in him."

[LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24 CSB]

31 For the Lord will not reject us forever. 32
Even if he causes suffering, he will show
compassion according to the abundance
of his faithful love. 33 ***For he does not
enjoy bringing affliction or suffering on
mankind.***

[LAMENTATIONS 3:31–33 CSB]

מִלְּבֹו

mil-lib-bow

At God's Heart



GOD SEES YOU!

6 Humble yourselves, therefore,
under the mighty hand of God, so
that he may exalt you at the proper
time, 7 casting all your cares on
him, because ***he cares about you.***

[1 PETER 5:6-7 CSB]

8 You yourself have recorded my wanderings. Put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

[PSALM 56:8 CSB]

8 Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.”

MALACHI 3:8–9 (NIV)