

SO YOU JUST LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT?

The Shack – Part 5

Is deep and real forgiveness possible? Yes. “God, you want me to forgive *who?* Of *that?*”

1. ON THE HEALING TRAIL

“*Love your enemies.*” Matthew 5:44 (NIV)

Nobody gets away with anything. Everything bears consequences.

“*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*” Galatians 6:7 (NIV)

“*Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*” Romans 12:19–21 (NIV)

Here’s how Jesus described it: “*Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*”
Luke 6:37–38 (NIV)

“*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*”
Romans 3:23 (NIV)

2 Peter 3:9 says, He wants all of us to be restored to Himself: “*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*”

“*‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’*” Matt. 18:21–22 (NIV)
How can we not extend mercy and forgiveness to others when we have received so much mercy and forgiveness from God?

Forgiveness is where justice and mercy kiss. That’s true when we experience forgiveness from God; it’s also true when we choose to forgive others.

2. TRUST ME

So how do we do it? How do we forgive? The answer lies within our view of and experience with God, if we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good. (Psalm 34:8)

3. GOD WITH US

Jesus said He knows the number of hairs on our heads. (Lk 12:7)

Psalm 139 paints a beautiful picture of God’s intimate knowledge of us from before birth:

“*Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Where can I flee from Your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, You are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there Your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.*”

Psalm 139:7–10 (NIV)

The angel used the name Immanuel for Jesus. (Matthew 1:23)

While He was physically here on earth, He promised, “*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you*

know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:16–18 (NIV)

The apostle Paul said it this way: *“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13 (NIV)*