

**The Road to Recovery**  
**Part #5 – Repairing Relationships**  
**Sunday November 1, 2009**  
Audio available at [www.kingstreet.org/audio](http://www.kingstreet.org/audio)

→ Matthew 18:21-35

***“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”*** (Matthew 5:7)

Q – What is mercy and how is it different from grace?

A. **Why should we forgive others?**

1. **Because forgiveness is the ocean we swim in.**

- **Jesus** swam in it (Luke 23:34)
- **Stephen** swam in it (Acts 7:60)
- **Paul** swam in it (Ephesians 4:32B)

2. **Because resentment is the pool we drown in.**  
(Hebrews 12:15)

- Resentment is **unhealthy**
- Resentment is **unhelpful**
- Resentment is **unorthodox**

There are two different bodies of water: one marked ‘forgiveness’ and the other called ‘resentment’. We need to pick the right pond, our **future** depends on it.

3. **Because we’re all going to be in over our head one day.**

- Over our head with **others**
- Over our head with **God**

“A story has been told about a man who went to John Wesley and said; “I can never forgive that person. Never! John Wesley replied; “Then, I hope you never sin. Because we all need what we don’t want to give.” Don’t burn the **bridge** you need to walk across.”  
John Baker

B. **How do we forgive others?**

→ Cling wrap vs. Teflon

1. **Acknowledge** your hurt
2. **Allow** the offender to go free
3. **Accept** God’s peace

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”*** (Matthew 5:9)

→ Matthew 5:23-24

→ Romans 12:18

C. **How do we make amends for our own wrong-doing?**

1. Make a list of the people we’ve wronged
2. Questions to consider when making amends:
  - What is the right **time**?
  - Where is the right **place**?
  - Do I have the right **attitude**?
  - Are my **expectations** realistic?
  - Is it **appropriate** to bring this up?
3. Follow through with restitution

