

FINDING
FORGIVENESS
IN AN AGE OF OUTRAGE.

MATTHEW 18:10-35

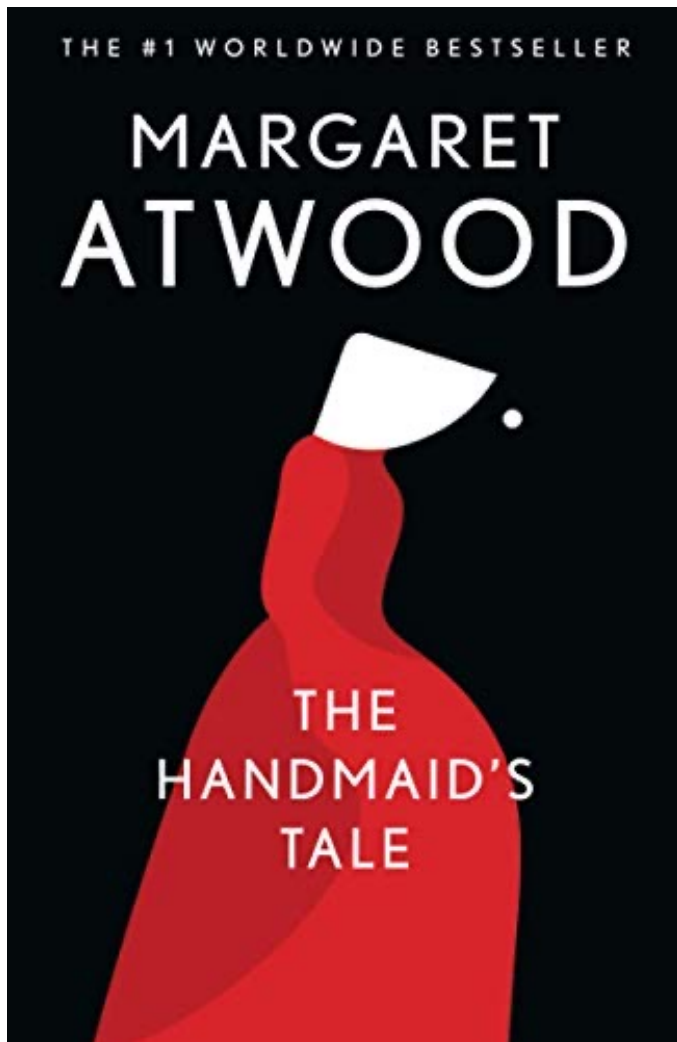
10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

12 What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? **13** And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. **14** In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:10-14

If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:15-20

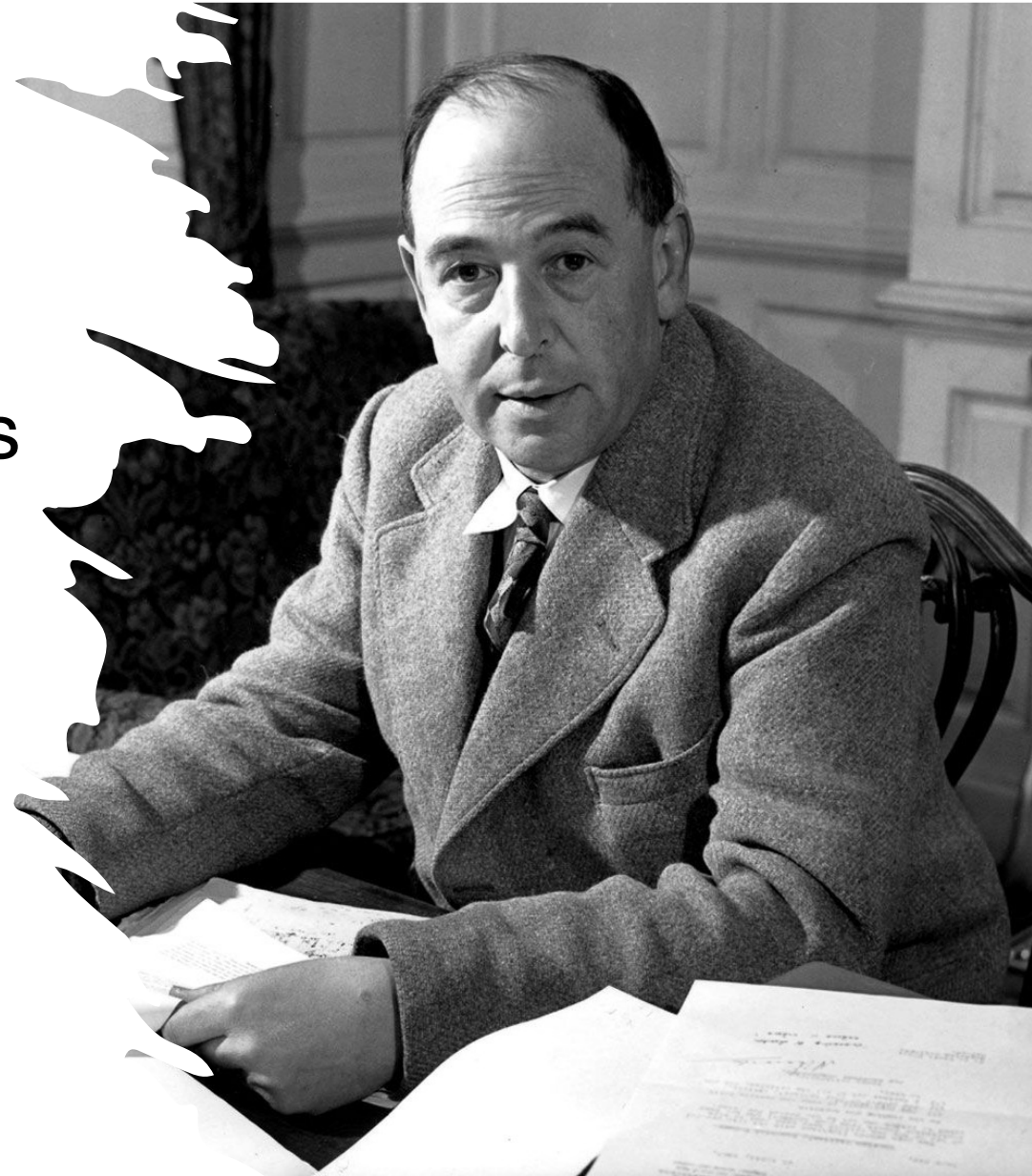


But remember that forgiveness too is a power. To beg for it is a power, and to withhold or bestow it is a power, perhaps the greatest.

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

Everyone thinks forgiveness is a great idea, until they have something to forgive.

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



MESSIAH

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

THE CHURCH IN MATTHEW

Matthew 16:18: *on this rock [i.e. confession of Jesus as the Son of God] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

Matthew 18:17: *If [in pursuing forgiveness and reconciliation] they refuse to listen to the church, let them be to you as a tax collector and Gentile.*

VICTIMHOOD CULTURE







In a victim-based culture unconditional affirmation is how we define LOVE.

Disagreement or an unwillingness to affirm is only explicable in terms of HATE.

Consequences of Victimhood as Society's Moral Currency...

A.) VICTIMHOOD BECOMES OUR **IDENTITY**

B.) **WEAPONISE** OUR GRIEVANCES & ARE POSTURED TOWARDS **OFFENCE-TAKING**

C.) WE LOSE THE ABILITY TO **FORGIVE**

FORGIVENESS MATTERS

MATTHEW 18:10-35

**1. BY SEEING OTHERS ACCORDING TO
GOD'S ESTIMATION AND NOT BY
THEIR OFFENCE [18:10-14]**

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MATTHEW 18:10-14

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BLACK MIRROR



MEN AGAINST FIRE

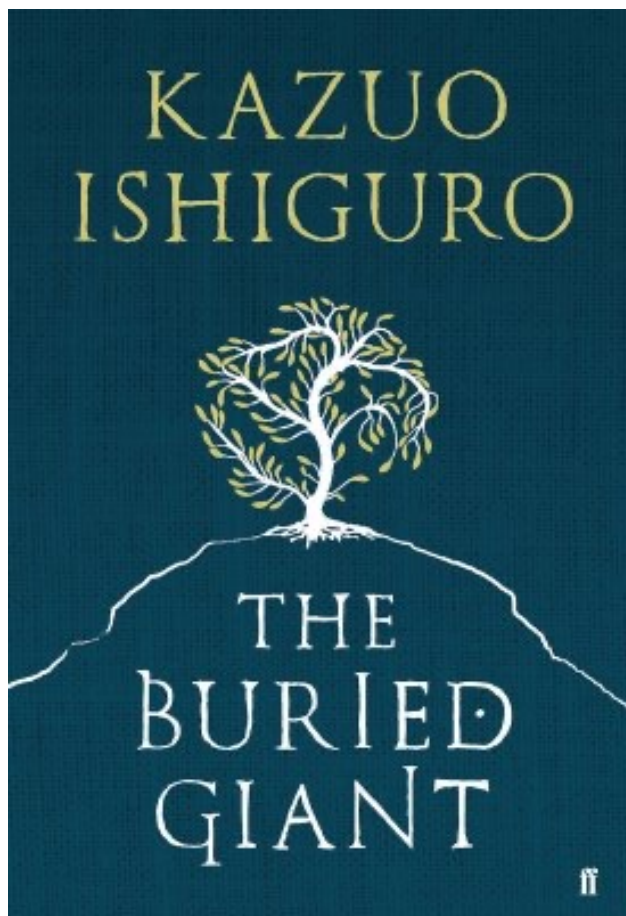
ORIGINAL SCORE BY

BEN SALISBURY

GEOFF BARROW

NETFLIX

2. PRACTICING FORGIVENESS [18:15-20]



You and I longed for the mist's end, thinking only of our own dear memories. Yet [in restoring our memories of the past] who knows what old hatred will loosen across the land now? ... Who knows what will come when quick-tongued men make ancient grievance rhyme with fresh desire for land and conquest?

Axl, The Buried Giant

**CHRISTIAN ROAD MAP FOR
RECONCILIATION**

**3. BY ALLOWING THE INDESCRIBABLE
FORGIVENESS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US TO
MOVE US TO FORGIVE OTHERS [18:21-35]**

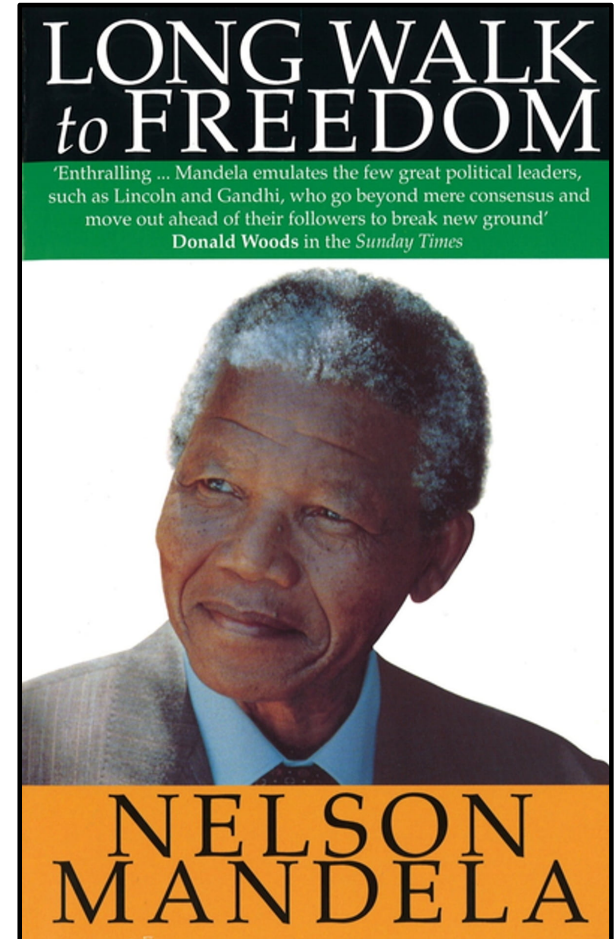
THE HEART OF FORGIVENESS: FORGIVENESS FROM THE HEART

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, *“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”*

22 Jesus answered, *“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”*

As I walked out the door to the gate leading to my freedom, I knew that if I didn't leave the bitterness and hatred behind, I would still be in prison.

Nelson Mandela, *The Long Walk to Freedom*



**IN A CULTURE OF CANCEL, THE
CHRISTIAN CAPACITY TO FULLY
FORGIVE & TRULY RECONCILE
THOSE WHOSE WHO HAVE FAILED
MAY BE OUR GREATEST **WITNESS.****

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