

## **“Forgiven/Unforgiving”**

by  
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<b>What</b>	<p>This realistic, slice-of-life scene presents a family addressing the peace of forgiveness and the pain that comes with holding grudges.</p> <p>Themes: Forgiveness, Family Life, Drama, Parable “The Unforgiving Servant”</p>
<b>Who</b>	<p>Ray- Husband Bonnie- Wife Claire- Daughter who is graduating from college</p>
<b>When</b>	<p>Present</p>
<b>Costumes and Props</b>	<p>Ray is dressed for work; Bonnie and Claire are dressed up for a special evening out. Box of Photos or Album Vase Flowers Briefcase Coat Rack Kitchen Table and Chairs Armchair TV Remote Cell Phone</p>
<b>Why</b>	<p>Matthew 18:21-23</p>
<b>How</b>	<p>This scene should be played for realism. They are a loving family working through their problems. While Ray will discover and “own” his role in his daughter’s disappointment, he is completely blind to the similarities he shares with his mother, or to extending her the same forgiveness he receives.</p>
<b>Time</b>	<p>Approximately 4 minutes</p>

*Ray arrives home late from work. Bonnie, his wife, greets him at the door. Claire, their grown daughter, is sorting through photos at the kitchen table. She ignores his entrance.*

**Bonnie:** *(in a hushed voice)* Where were you?

**Ray:** *(setting down his briefcase/laptop bag, hanging sport coat on coat rack)*  
I'm sorry, Bonnie. The meeting ran over.

**Bonnie:** I wish you had let us know; Claire was so disappointed.

**Ray:** It couldn't be helped. I had to put another fire out in accounting, and now corporate wants a whole new strategy mapped out by Friday.  
*(suddenly notices her appearance)* You're dressed up...?

**Bonnie:** Yes, Ray, it's Thursday. *(he's not getting it)* ... The 15<sup>th</sup> ... Ray, it was Claire's Senior Recital!

**Ray:** Oh no! Was that tonight? I didn't mean to... Babe, I'm so sorry!

**Bonnie:** Don't tell me; you need to talk to Claire.

*Ray crosses to the table and sits next to his daughter. She slides her chair away from him and continues to ignore him. Bonnie begins quietly arranging Claire's flowers in a vase nearby.*

**Ray:** I guess I'm the last person you want to see right now, huh? *(he looks at Bonnie, she encourages him to keep trying)* Claire, I'm so sorry. I got tied up at work and...

**Claire:** So, what else is new, Dad?

**Ray:** I know, you're mad. But Honey, I never would have missed your recital if I could help it.

**Claire:** Oh, I know, Dad. *(showing him various photos as her anger grows)* Just like you never meant to miss my swim meet against State... or most of my high school band concerts, or hey—even the father/daughter dance when I was a Girl Scout! You never meant to miss any of those things, did you, Dad?

**Ray:** Claire...

**Claire:** Don't worry about me, Dad. I'm fine. Why don't you just skip my graduation next week too? I'm sure you've got lots of work to do. We'll catch up with each other before I move to Chicago for my new

internship. Or maybe, you'll have some time when I come home for Christmas! *(She stands abruptly to leave the table.)*

**Ray:** *Claire! (he reaches for her hand, thinks better of it, and gently gestures for her to take her seat) You're right! I'm so sorry... (Claire returns to sit at the table) I've missed so much, Honey.*

**Claire:** *(starting to cry) You said you'd make it this time, Dad. I believed you and you let me down again. You care more about your work than you care for me.*

**Ray:** *(sincerely remorseful) Oh, Claire, please forgive me. You are the most important thing in the world to me. I promise, I PROMISE, I will be at your graduation, and Mom and I will be cheering louder than all the other parents there! And I won't miss anything else, ever again. I mean it! (He takes her hand) I'm so sorry, Honey... I love you so much, and I'm so proud of you. Will you forgive me?*

*Claire softens and then...*

**Claire:** Of course, I forgive you, Dad.

*Peace is restored. Ray stands slowly, kissing Claire on the top of the head.*

**Ray:** Thank you, Honey. I love you.

*Ray looks over to Bonnie who is smiling at him with reassurance. Then he leaves the table and makes his way to the armchair to watch TV. Bonnie, crosses to the table, gives Claire a hug, and together they look through the photos.*

*Ray picks up the TV remote and begins scrolling through the channels. When suddenly, Ray receives a text message on his cell phone.*

**Ray:** *(reading the message) You've gotta be kidding me. (Clicking off the tv, he stares at the phone, trying to decide what to do. Calling over his shoulder,) Bonnie, it's her again.*

**Bonnie:** Your mother?

**Ray:** That woman left when I was 10. She's not my mother.

**Bonnie:** She made a mistake, Ray. Maybe talking things over with her would...

**Ray:** *(storming over to the table) I'm not talking things over with that woman! She was never there for me. Do you know how many times she broke her promises? Why should I make things easy for her now?*

**Claire:** Daddy, she's probably really sorry.

**Ray:** Sorry? Not good enough. She missed everything that was important to me. She missed our wedding, Bon. She's never even met you, Claire—her firstborn grandchild. I don't need her "sorrys".

**Bonnie:** Ray...

**Ray:** Forget it, Bonnie. That woman only bothered to get in touch with me because she wants something. *(He starts to pace about in a fury)* Maybe it's money, maybe it's a kidney, I don't care. She gave up her right to ask me for anything when she gave up on me.

**Claire:** But, Daddy, what if all she wants is your forgiveness?

**Ray:** What forgiveness? I will NEVER forgive her. Not if we were the last two people on the planet! *(He starts to storm off in exit.)*

**Bonnie:** Ray, please...

**Ray:** No! Not this! I will never, EVER forgive that woman for as long as I live!

*He exits, while **Bonnie** and **Claire** exchange looks. Lights out.*