

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?"
Matthew 18:21 NKJV

Lock them up, those who have hurt you. Lock them up and hold them responsible. Never forget a slight, never forgive an indiscretion, never write off a debt . . . make them pay. You are justified by suffering. You are understood in your anger. So build a prison to hold all offenders. Build it large and strong. Craft airtight cases and ironclad indictments. Don't let anyone escape. They don't deserve parole. Lock them up and keep the only key in a very safe place.

Only one thing you should remember – you must stay at the jail to guard your prisoners. You can't move on. You can't rise above. You can't pursue your noble dreams. You built the jail; now you're a jailor.

It's dawning on you now, isn't it? There's not much difference between being in or out. Walls are walls. What's that I hear you say? You don't want to be a jailor? Well, then let them out! Open all the cells and offer complete pardons. Choose to forget and forgive and dismiss the charges. Let them out and let God work His justice. Let them out and tear down the jail. That jail was a real eyesore anyway.

Every Christian needs to decide whether they will spend their lives looking at stark prison walls, or mighty oceans of mercy.

