

A Plea for Forgiveness

Author Jim Wilson tells about an episode that occurred in season three of a popular television program called *Monk*.

Monk was carried for many years on the USA Network and is still available on one of the streaming services. Adrian Monk, the title character, is a somewhat defective detective. He suffers from obsessive compulsive disorder, which is responsible for most of the comedy in the series. He has suffered from his eccentricities at least ever since the death of his beloved wife, Trudy.

In one episode, Monk travels to New York to search for Trudy's killer. At the end of the episode, he meets the man who – for a couple of thousand dollars – placed a bomb under Trudy's car. The man is near death, lying in a hospital bed, hooked up to a morphine drip.

As Monk finishes his questioning, the man asks, "Forgive me."

With a solemn expression on his face, Monk walks over to the morphine drip, turns it off and says, "This is me turning off your morphine," which, of course, would cause unbearable pain for this man, his wife's murderer.

Then, a few seconds later, he turns back and says, "This is Trudy turning it back on," which is exactly what he does.

Monk couldn't forgive this man in his own strength. Only drawing on the memory of Trudy's love could he do the right thing.

There may be someone in your life you could never forgive under your own power. Could you draw on Jesus' strength – and more importantly, on Jesus' love – and let Him forgive that person through you?

So, you don't feel like forgiving others when they do you wrong? Join the crowd. You're human. But your feelings aren't evidence of your faith. Your actions are. Your obedience is. Faith is obeying God's calling whether you feel like it or not, and doing it through His strength and not your own.



Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter