

"The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant" (Part 2)

Matthew 18:21-35/ Luke 7:41-43

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13-14; 1 Peter 4:8)

*"No one's sin toward me should cause them to forfeit my love and mercy towards them. This is Christlikeness."
(Matthew Henry)*

- *"A king wished to settle accounts with his servants...."*
 - Culturally a king would have governors or officials put in positions to collect taxes and then the governor would "settle with the king" what was collected. These governors would have had a great *responsibility* and a high *accountability*. This was something that would have been done periodically, not once in a lifetime.
 - To give some historical background, MacArthur offers this: *"From historical documents it has been determined that the total annual revenue collected by the Roman Government from Idumea, Judea, Samaria, and Galilee was about 900 talents."*
- *"One was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents...."*
 - Contextually, the debt of the ten thousand talents represents sin. A talent historically was 20 years wages, so this is an immeasurable amount of debt.

"If You O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared." (Psalm 130:3-4)

"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." (Romans 4:7-8)

"God made us alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13-14).

- The debt of our sin cannot be paid by any human efforts. Effort before or after salvation does not save us. But the ultimate consequence of sin is the loss of everything. Our only hope is in the mercy, grace, love and generosity of God (Titus 3:5-8).
- *"The master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt."*
 - What is the effect of experiencing this kind of grace and mercy (Matthew 5:3-9)?
 - We realize our spiritual poverty leading to a humble surrender to Christ.
 - Repentance for our sin leading to a comfort in the grace of Christ.
 - A humility leading to seeing and savoring the worthiness of Christ.
 - A hunger for holiness leading to salvation/sanctification.
 - A merciful attitude towards others due to experiencing the mercy of God.
 - A desire to be single-minded in our pursuit of God.
 - A desire to be at peace with God and others. A love for reconciliation.
- *"He found one of his fellow servants who owed him....they (the fellow servants) were greatly distressed."*
 - When we don't forgive our brothers in Christ we lose out on the joy of reconciliation. We should desire to gain our brother (Matthew 18:15).
 - Seeing our brothers and sisters not dealing with sin properly is a heart wrenching reality (2 Corinthians 12:20-21).

(continued →)

Worship: So I Will Trust You (Sovereign Grace Music)

Speak, O Lord (Keith and Krystyn Getty)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- How do we avoid reacting this way to sin against us?
 - Daily fight for holiness, set our eyes on Christ in prayer and time in the Word, and realize that suffering is a part of Christianity (Hebrews 12:1-3; Colossians 3:1-6).
 - Remember the debt that was paid for us through the work of Christ by taking communion, thanking God for our salvation, and daily repentance (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Romans 5:1-11; 1 John 1:7-10).
 - Remember the essential nature of Christian community for my sanctification (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:21-26; Romans 12:3-8).
- *“In anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.”*
 - *“And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:17)*
 - *“You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 5:5)*
 - *“If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take notice of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.” (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15)*
 - *“So you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.” (2 Corinthians 2:7-8)*
 - The greatest discipline a Christian can receive for their sin, in this life, is a removal from the corporate gathering and fellowship of the saints.