

"FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE!"

(Mat.18:21-35)

One of the greatest themes of the Bible is forgiveness – God's forgiveness of us, and our forgiveness of one another. Today we will study a text in which Jesus dramatically teaches us...

I. The EXTENT of Forgiveness (21-22)

"...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him,? Til 7 times? "...not...until 7 times; but until 70 times 7." (Gen.4:24; Rom.5:20; Eph.4:32)

II. The EXAMPLE of Forgiveness (23-34)

• A Debtor (23-27)

"...when he began to reckon, one...owed him 10,000 talents." (See Ps.51:4)

• A Creditor (28-30)

"BUT, the same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence..." (See 1 Cor.6:1; 11:22; Tit.3:2-7)

• A Prisoner (31-34)

"And his lord was wroth and delivered him to the tormentors..." (See Ps.6; Acts 5:1-10; Heb.12:6; Jas.2:13)

III. The EXHORTATION of Forgiveness (35)

"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." (See Eph.4:32; Matt.6:12, 14-15; 1 Pet.4:8)

Lessons for Life:

- The Greatness of Our Sin Debt (10,000 talents!!)
- The Seriousness of Judgment (Reality of eternal Hell!)
- Our Sin Hurts People We Love (Servant's family in jail!)
- Forgiveness Will Cost Something (10,000 talents? 100 pence?)
- Prison of an Unforgiving Heart (Root of bitterness, Heb.12:15)
- To Forgive Takes a New Heart (Eph.4:32)

"FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE! (Matt.18:21-35)

Small Group Discussion Guide

1. **Read and discuss Matt.18:21-22.** How is it possible for us to obey the Lord's instruction to forgive "seventy times seven?" Why is it sometimes difficult for us to forgive?
2. **Read and discuss Matt.18:23-34.** What are some of the emotions you feel as you read the parable of the unforgiving servant? Why? What does this parable teach us about God's forgiveness? About our forgiveness of one another?
3. **Why does Jesus conclude the parable with such a stern warning in v.35? Why does He emphasize the need to forgive from your hearts?**
4. **It has been said that when a person refuses to extend forgiveness, they suffer the most. Is there some truth in this statement? How?**

Digging Deeper:

List several reasons why we should be quick to forgive others according to Titus.3:2-7.

What are the dangers of refusing to forgive according to these verses: Matt.6:12, 14-15? Heb.12:15? James 2:13?

Prayerfully ask God to bring to mind someone you need to forgive. Write down what you'll do this week to show that you have truly forgiven this person from your heart (Mat.18:35)?