**FOCUSING ON FORGIVENESS**

**Matthew 18:23-35**

[**23**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-23/) **Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.**

[**24**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-24/) **And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.** [**25**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-25/) **But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.** [**26**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-26/) **The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.** [**27**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-27/) **Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.** [**28**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-28/) **But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.** [**29**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-29/)**And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.**

[**30**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-30/) **And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.** [**31**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-31/) **So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.** [**32**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-32/) **Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:** [**33**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-33/) **Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?** [**34**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-34/) **And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.** [**35**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-35/) **So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**

**INTRO:**

**Background: In the scripture before our text, Peter questioned how many times he should forgive someone who had wrong him. He asked because the Jewish Rabbis taught people to forgive a person three times. Peter felt that forgiving people seven times was a more complete number, but being a little unsure, he asked Jesus for the answer.**

 **Instead, Jesus said to forgive a person seventy times seven. This is not to be taken literally that we are to say the words “I forgive you,” 490 times. Instead, the Lord was telling Peter to keep on forgiving multiple times! I’m sure glad the Lord practices what He preaches, because He has forgiven me multiple times over and over again!**

**\*\*What is forgiveness anyway? It is granting a pardon. It pardons the perversion, the payment, and the person.**

 **1. Forgiveness includes Favor**

 **a. It’s a favor to excuse the mistakes!**

 **b. It’s a favor to excuse the meanness!**

 **c. It’s a favor to embrace the mercy!**

 **2. Forgiveness includes Freedom**

 **a. For the Forgiven we’re set free from the Penalty of . .**

 **\* Sin’s Debt**

 **\* Shame’s Disgrace**

 **b. For the Forgiver we’re set free from the Prison of . . .**

 **Grudges, Gripes, Gossip, and Grumblings**

 **3. Forgiveness includes Faith**

**\*\*Forgiveness is putting faith in God to take away the Hurt, the Hostility, the Hatred, and the Hatefulness you feel and replace it with the Pardon, the Patience, the Pity, and the Peace you need to truly forgive a person!**

**I. NOTICE THE REALITY OF THE SERVANT**

 **A. There was a Debt**

**Matthew 18:24 [24](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-24/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A24%20KJV%20verse%20detail) And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.**

**\*\*Reckon – Synairo (Sue ni ro) It means to be taken up to settle an account. Everyone of us have had an account that needed to be settled or you have an account that needs to be settle now!**

**\*\*Ten Thousand – Myrios (More re us) It means that it was countless – very much. All the debt of this man could not be counted! My debt to the Lord could not be counted and neither can yours!**

**\*\*Talents – Talanton (Tah lahn ton) It is actual a measure of weight that was put on a scale that represented how much was owed. This fellow owed ten thousand (countless) talents (weights)! He was weighted down with a countless number of weights on the scales that he could not possible carry or pay! Do you remember when you was weighted down with a load of sin you could not carry or pay for?**

 **1. This debt was Undeniable!**

 **2. This debt was Unpayable!**

**\*\*Every lost person and every sinner has an account of countless sins they have racked up that is undeniable and unpayable!**

 **B. There was a Decree**

**Matthew 18:25 [25](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-25/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A25%20KJV%20verse%20detail) But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.**

**\*\*This debt was going to cost him his entire Family, Fortune, and Future!**

**\*\*Sin always costs a lot more than you would ever dream. It will cost you your Family, your Friends, your Finances, your Future!**

 **C. There was a Despair**

**Matthew 18:26 [26](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-26/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A26%20KJV%20verse%20detail) The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.**

**\*\*Worshipped – Proskyneo (Prahs Ka Nayo) It means he knelt before this king out of respect and kissed his hand.**

**\*\*In his despair, this servant is asking for two things.**

 **1. Out of Humbleness he asks for Patience**

 **2. Out of Hopelessness he asks for Pity**

**\*\*Do you remember the day you owed a debt you could not pay and through your hopelessness and humbleness you asked the Lord for Patience and Pity upon you? I sure do!**

 **D. There was a Deliverance**

**Matthew 18:27** [**27**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-27/) **Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.**

 **1. The servant was no longer Bound**

 **(He was Free!)**

 **2. The servant was no longer Burdened**

 **(He was Forgiven!)**

 **a. No more carrying the Weight of his Big Fees**

 **b. No more carrying the Worry over his Beautiful Family**

**\*\*I’m still thankful for the day the Lord had compassion on me and forgave me and freed me!**

**\*\*There’s no doubt we see a picture of ourselves owing a debt we cannot pay, and then our King forgives us and frees us through his great love and compassion!**

**II. NOTICE THE RESPONSE OF THE SERVANT**

 **A. Look at the Attitude Revealed**

**Matthew 18:28 [28](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-28/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A28%20KJV%20verse%20detail) But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.**

**\*\*Hundred Pence - 1. Hundred – Hekaton (He Ka Ton) – It literally means hundred! 2. Pence – Denarion (Day Na Ray On) - One pence was a penny but it was worth the value of 10 Donkeys! Usually one pence was a day’s wages. So this fellowservant owed this fellow about a hundred days worth of wages which would have equaled to about a thousand donkeys!**

**\*\*However, remember this servant who was trying to collect his debt had owed the king COUNTLESS debt!**

 **1. With Hostility we see this man Grab**

 **2. With Hatefulness we see this man Gripe**

**\*\*The king sure didn’t treat this servant that way when his debt was countless, but he sure did treat his fellowservant extremely terrible!**

 **B. Look at the Appeal Requested**

**Matthew 18:29 [29](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-29/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A29%20KJV%20verse%20detail) And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.**

 **1. His fellowservant is asking for the same Patience**

 **2. His fellowservant is asking for the same Pity**

 **C. Look at the Actions Rendered**

**Matthew 18:30 [30](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-30/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A30%20KJV%20verse%20detail) And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.**

 **1. Instead of the Patience that he got, he requires Payment!**

 **2. Instead of the Pity that he got, he requires Prison!**

**\*\*Sounds like to me this follower is a taker, but not a giver!**

**\*\*I wonder if any of you have beg God and gladly received the forgiveness and favor of the Lord or others, but you were unwilling to offer that same forgiveness and favor to others who had done you wrong?**

**\*\*Unfortunately, I’ve met a lot of Christians and even preachers and deacons who were much like this servant that refused to show mercy and forgiveness toward others while claiming the Lord had graciously given them mercy and forgiveness.**

**\*\*Well the Lord had something to say about this, and so did the king!**

**III. NOTICE THE RETRIBUTION OF THE SERVANT**

**\*\*Retribution means payback! If people would learn to fear the payback, they would learn not to be so mean and sinful!**

 **A. This Servant gets a Good Reminder**

**Matthew 18:31-32** [**31**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-31/) **So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.** [**32**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-32/) **Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt,**

 **1. The king reminded him about the Charges.**

 **2. The king reminded him about the Compassion.**

 **3. The king reminded him about the Consequences.**

 **B. This Servant gets a Great Rebuke**

**Matthew 18:33 [33](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-33/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A33%20KJV%20verse%20detail) Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?**

**\*\*When we deal with those who have done us wrong or hurt us, shouldn’t we offer the same . . .**

 **1. Leniency that our King Jesus offered us?**

 **2. Love that our King Jesus offered us?**

 **C. This Servant gets a Gloomy Repayment**

**Matthew 18:34  [34](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-18-34/%22%20%5Co%20%22Matthew%2018%3A34%20KJV%20verse%20detail) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.**

 **1. The servant lived in Prison.**

 **2. The servant lived in Punishment.**

 **3. The servant lived in Payments.**

**\*\*When you are unwilling to forgive those you have done you wrong, you are the one who will suffer for it.**

**CLOSE**

**Jesus closed his parable with this warning:**

**Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**

**1. Is there family you need to forgive? Are there friends or foes you need to forgive? It might even be a preacher or a pastor you need to forgive. It might be a boss or coworker.**

**2. “But preacher you don’t know what they’ve done to me!” The Lord said to forgive them anyway!**

**3. “But they have not apologized!” The Lord said to forgive them anyway! While on the cross Jesus said, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do,” while being crucified!**

**4. “You don’t know what it’s like preacher.” Yes I do!**

**I have had to forgive those who have never asked. It can be done!**

**Illustration: A young pastor’s wife was sitting in her home while her child slept in the other room. A man entered the home and killed this young wife and mother. Her husband had this to say:**

**“I don't want to live my life going down the path of bitterness because it will destroy my soul and it will destroy everybody around me if I choose unforgiveness. So today, I choose forgiveness. And tomorrow, I pray that I can wake up and choose forgiveness by the power of Jesus Christ. And so I’m just praying that His Spirit would help me in forgiving this person every day.”**

**5. Surely if that pastor can forgive his wife’s murderer and ask God to help him to forgive that person every day, then you can forgive those who have done you wrong, said a harsh word, despitefully used you, stole from you, worked division in your life, hurt your family, and was mean to you. Surely you can put your faith and trust in God and ask God to help you to forgive that person.**

**Jesus was teaching that those who have been forgiven must be willing to forgive. That’s the only way to get peace!**