

Extravagant Forgiveness

Deeper Christian Podcast #112 with NRJohnson

Compel With Love

Moreover if your brother sins against you, **go** and tell him his fault between you and him **alone**. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that "by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Matthew 18:15-17

- * Context: Matthew 18:11-14 (lost sheep and a loving shepherd)
- * go: imperative (command)
- * tell him: literally "convince"

How Much?

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Matthew 18:21-22

- * Pagan (Greek) world: do unto others before they do unto you
- * Jewish world: do unto others as they have done unto you
- * Rabbinical teaching: you must forgive three times if asked

Jesus Tells a Joke ... er ... Parable

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who **owed him ten thousand talents**. But as **he was not able to pay**, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and **all that he had**, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, "Master, **have patience with me, and I will pay you all.**" Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who **owed him a hundred denarii**; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, "Pay me what you owe!" So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, "**Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.**" And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, "You **wicked** [*evil*] servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ***So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.***

Matthew 18:23-35

10,000 Talents vs. 100 Denarii

- * Ten thousand was the largest number the Greeks used in calculations, and the talent was the largest amount of monetary value at that time. Combining the two would be like us using the term “zillions.” The debt owed was insurmountable; the value was meant to shock Jesus’ listeners and pale in comparison to the value of the 100 denarii. *(taken from selections from Faithlife Study Bible and The Gospel of Matthew, New International Commentary on the New Testament)*
- * A talent was equivalent to 15 years’ worth of wages (literally half a lifetime of wages). 10,000 talents would equate to 150,000 years of labor.
- * A denarii was a day’s wage and thus 100 denarii was 100 days’ wages (3.3 months worth of wages).
- * In today’s economy the average US income is \$52,000 a year. The servant owed the king \$7.8 billion verses what he was owed, \$14,428.89. To make it simpler to understand, if the other servant owed him \$10, he would owe the king \$5.4 million.
- * The order of the words in the original writing is very significant. The words “all that debt,” immediately follow the words “You wicked servant!” The servant wasn’t called wicked for embezzling the huge debt but for not bestowing forgiveness.

No one will ever hurt you as much as you have hurt [others/ God].

Stephen Manley

How God Forgives: Extravagantly

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

Matthew 9:2

* Subject: your sins [feminine noun]

* Verb: forgiven [perfect, passive, indicative]

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103:12

But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

Isaiah 38:17b

"I, even I, am He who blots *[wipes out]* out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 43:25

But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9:17

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

Daniel 9:9

He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:19

This forgiveness, again, is given by the Lord Jesus Christ in the completest possible manner. He keeps no back reckonings; he retains no reserves of anger. He so forgives that he forgets. That is the wonder of it: he says, "I will not remember thy sins." He casts them behind his back; they are wholly and completely gone from his observation or regard. Alas, such is poor human nature, that even fathers, when they have forgiven a wayward child, will, perhaps, throw the offence in his teeth years after, when he again offends; but it is never so with Christ. He says, "Thy sins shall not be mentioned against thee any more for ever." He has done with the sins of his people in so effectual a way that not a whisper concerning them shall ever come from his mouth so as to grieve them. They will themselves remember their sins with deep repentance; but the Lord will never challenge them on account of their past rebellions. Blessed be the name of Christ for such complete forgiveness as this.

Charles Spurgeon

Divine Forgiveness Admired and Imitated (Sermon #1841)

The Ministry of Reconciliation

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21