

THE PARABLES—Section 2, Part 9

Matthew 18:21-35

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1. 18:21 According to the rabbis at the time of Christ, offenders could be forgiven three times; but on the fourth offense, there was no more forgiveness. Peter thought he was being generous.
2. 18:22 The inclination of fallen man is to return evil for evil, without limit. God's standard is just the opposite (Genesis 4:15, 24).
3. 18:22 Jesus' point was that mercy knows no limit.
4. 18:24 Ten thousand talents is representative of a limitless amount of money; that amount is intended to indicate an unpayable debt.
5. 18:25 Selling the man and his family was a picture of how hopeless the situation was, not that the king was getting fair equity by the sale.
6. 18:26 It was foolish, perhaps even prideful, to think he could pay it back.
7. 18:26 When first convicted of sin, people are often inclined to make promises to God similar to the one the man gave to the king. They acknowledge their sin and want to make amends, not yet realizing that they cannot.
8. 18:26 A major indicator of someone who lacks a spirit of forgiveness is an arrogant attitude.
9. 18:27 Jesus just painted His own self-portrait.
10. 18:29 These were the exact same words used earlier, but those words evoked no sympathy.
11. 18:31 Other people are always watching your actions.
12. 18:35 Jesus saw no inconsistency in the actions of a heavenly Father who forgives to such extreme measures and yet also deals so directly with sin.

13. 18:35 Quick and genuine forgiveness is among the highest of human virtues because it is a reflection of the character of God.
14. 18:35 A Christian who will not relinquish a hateful, resentful attitude toward someone who has wronged him is a person who knows not the true glory of God's grace that has been freely given.
15. Because of our failures, we need debt forgiveness. Just as the amount of money in the parable is unpayable, humanity's debt for sin cannot be repaid. Because of our failures and our need for forgiveness, God instituted a payment plan through Jesus Christ. The moment a person acknowledges their sin and turns to the only Savior for forgiveness, the mountain of debt to God is paid in full forever.
16. The Lord's point to Peter...For someone in the Kingdom to be unwilling to forgive another is unthinkable. (Remember, He was speaking of the characteristics of those who belong to the Kingdom, not about the forgiveness that brings salvation.)
17. God is honored by immediate obedience (Matthew 5:23-24)
18. Jesus in many other places has said you will know if someone legitimately belongs to the Kingdom of Heaven by the fruit they produce (Galatians 5:22-24; John 13:35); here He is saying one of those fruits in forgiveness.

QUOTES

"If a man commits an offense once, they forgive him; if he commits an offense a second time, they forgive him; if he commits an offense a third time, they forgive him; the fourth time they do not forgive him." ~Rabbi Jose ben Jehuda

"An unforgiving Christian is a living contradiction of his new nature in Christ." ~ Dr. John MacArthur

GREEK WORDS

Splanchnizomai—to have the bowels yearn, feel:- (be moved with) compassion, deeply moved

Apoluo (ap-ol-oo'-o)—to free fully, or (specifically):- forgive, release, set at liberty, cancelled

Teleo (tel-eh'-o)—to end, discharge (a debt), release:- accomplish, pay, perform

SONG TITLES

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