

Connection
Adoration
Invitation
Supplication
Confession

CONCESSION

'as we forgive our debtors'



MATTHEW 18:21-35

Jesus parable
on the need to forgive
those who owe us

1-UNFORGIVENESS IMPRISONS

- Matthew 18:34-35 (ESV) 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

2- TO FORGIVE IS TO LET IT GO

- 'To let go' is a meaning of the Greek word, 'aphiemi', translated '*forgive*' in Matthew 6:12

MATTHEW 18:24-27 (ESV)

- *24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.*

MATTHEW 18:28-30 (ESV)

- 28 *But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’* 29 *So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’* 30 *He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.*

'FORGIVING' (AND LETTING GO) IS TO
'PUT AWAY' OUR NEGATIVE STUFF
AGAINST PEOPLE

- Ephesians 4:31-32 (ESV) 'Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. [32] Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.'

3- FORGIVENESS IS ALSO TO HAVE MERCY

- *Matthew 18:33 (ESV) And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'*

MERCY IS CONTRASTED WITH STRICT JUSTICE, OR JUDGMENT

- Judgment / justice is '*Pay what you owe.*' (Mt. 18:28)
- Mercy is to forgive (cancel) the debt (Mt. 18:27, 32)

Matthew 18 = We can't ask for mercy for ourselves

and then demand justice for others

4- FORGIVENESS IS NOT (PLAYING GOD OR) BEING THE THE JUDGE

- Forgiveness is letting God deal with those who hurt us
- *Romans 12:17-21 (ESV) 17 Repay no one evil for evil,.....
19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the
wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will
repay, says the Lord."*

5- DO WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVEN'T APOLOGIZED TO US?

- *Ephesians 4:32*, 'forgiving' - 'charizomai', refers to a gracious attitude towards those who 'owe' us
- The father in the story of the prodigal son (in Luke 15) ran to the prodigal with a forgiving attitude
- But the Father's forgiving attitude was there even when the prodigal was still in the pig sty

6 - HOW TO FORGIVE

a.) Look at the Cross

(& express what we received from God)

Matthew 18:27 (ESV) And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Matt. 18:33 – "as I had mercy on you"

6- HOW TO FORGIVE

b.) Let it flow

(God's grace that enables us to forgive)

Matthew 18:33 (ESV) And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

Eph. 4:32 forgiving ('charizomai) one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

WARNING

- If we don't express forgiveness to others
- We won't experience forgiveness from God

(in our moment by moment intimate fellowship)

(Matthew 6:14-15 ,18: 21-35)

6- HOW TO FORGIVE

c.) Keep doing it
(many times over)

Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV) 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (or 'seventy times seven')