

THE PARABLE of ONE THING GOD WON'T FORGIVE

Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21

(A) The word *sin* here comes from the Greek word *ham-ar-tan-o* – to miss the mark and not share in the prize. It was commonly used to describe shooting an arrow at a target with a bow and failure to hit the bulls eye. Used figuratively: to err especially morally, to sin, our faults, offences and trespasses.

(B) How often must I forgive my brother.

(C) Peter wants to show JESUS how generous he was – The rabbis taught that 3 times was sufficient cf:

Amos 1:3 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron:

Amos 2:6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

(D) As Peter says: *LORD, how oft shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Till seven times* this was a large stretch of charity he thought.

Matthew 18:22

(A) But the New Covenant is better than the old covenant. JESUS can see through Peter's cloak of self-righteousness to the unloving heart inside.

GOD'S forgiveness is like:

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

I will remember no more.

Isaiah 1:8-9 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

(B) If you are counting past one – you're playing Santa Clause, making a list and checking it twice to find out who's naughty and nice and not forgiving –

GOD'S Way – You are remembering!

(C) *Until seventy times seven* is a Hebrew-ism which means on and on and on - we are to forgive without limit!

This denotes an unlimited number and is used in the description of the revenge in the case of Lamech cf:

Genesis 4:24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

(D) We are to be to others as GOD has been to us!

In no case should a Christian harbor malice or resentment toward an offender.

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:23

Therefore is the Kingdom of Heaven (the Church upon earth) is likened unto . . . Where do you picture yourself in this parable?

Which servant are you?

Matthew 18:24

A talent in gold is \$1,138,000,000 in today's money at \$1,300 per ounce gold!

29 Talents of Gold was used in making the Tabernacle cf:

Exodus 38:24 All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy *place*, even the gold of the offering, was twenty and nine talents, ...

For the Temple David prepared 3,000 Talents of Gold and all the princes of the land 5,000 (I Chron. 29:4-7)

And yet this is a greater amount.

It exceeds any possibility of payment.

We owe GOD an un-payable debt.

Matthew 18:25

No man can pay for his own sins for *there is none righteous, no not one.*

Romans 3:10-19 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 3:13 Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: 3:14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: 3:15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: 3:16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known: 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

The self-righteous who think they have never sinned are severed from CHRIST and fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Matthew 18:26

The only way to begin is to own up to the KING for your debt.

Psalms 51

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Matthew 18:27

GOD'S love and grace in forgiving us should bring love and grace into our hearts towards others.

Such an act of unparalleled forgiveness is only found in God's forgiveness of sinners.

Isaiah 61:10-11 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels. Isa 61:11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

The same Greek words "loosed him" is used in the act of setting Barabbas free Matthew 27:15

Matthew 18:28

(A) But this *wicked* disciple is unwilling to accept grace and pardon. He's going to Pay the KING back yet – legalist

(B) *A pence* was 15 cents a day labours wages –

One hundred pence is \$15.00 at best, a trifling sum.

This small amount shows how little after all we sin against each other compared with our sins against God.

The malefactors attitude and words were similar to those he himself had used to the King. But he:

***Took him by the throat* which was strictly legal under Roman law.**

This harsh violent conduct is in wide contrast to the conduct of his Lord to him.

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

This man would not exercise the mercy and forgiveness that had been extended toward him.

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Matthew 18:29

The *fellow-servant* only asks for the same *patience* from him that he sought from the KING (Verse 26) – grace for grace.

Matthew 18:30

The legalist can never remember:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Matthew 18:32

This offense is worse than the offense of his original indebtedness to his Lord.

I forgive thee all that debt . . .

If GOD marked our sins (made a list) who could stand just before HIM?

Psalms 130:3-8 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? 130:4 But *there is* forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. 130:6 My soul *waiteth* for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: *I say, more than* they that watch for the morning. 130:7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD *there is* mercy, and with him *is* plenteous redemption. 130:8 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Matthew 18:33

Grace for Grace is required.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Luke 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

James 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Matthew 18:34

(A) *Deliver him to the tormentors* – Greek Bas-an-izo, to torture (not just prison) – to torment in torment.

The “triers” In the ancient world it was common for men to conceal property and pretend to be very poor to escape debts or taxes.

Hence the custom was practiced of subjecting to torture to compel them to betray their hidden wealth.

(B) *Till he should pay all that was due* – How can he?

(C) He will never get out. He has sealed his own doom! Cf:

Psalms 88:1ff

Matthew 18:35

(A) Remember, *from your hearts.*

The heart in Hebrew is the mind, the emotions and the will your walk in daily life.

(B) Remember, forgive like GOD and forget

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more

How? By refusing to think and dwell on those who offend you.

(C) Remember, the Lord's Prayer –

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtor

Our forgiveness is based upon grace for grace –

our forgiving those who trespass against us.

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What you need for the Judgment day repentance for your sins, forgiveness in your heart for others and the righteousness of God cf:

Zechariah 3:1-4 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee,

O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire? 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 6:3-6 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Matthew 22:11-14 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 22:14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen.