

LESSON 12

THE TRANSFIGURATION

OCTOBER 7, 2020

Forgiveness

Matthew 18:15-35

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

*"When he had **begun to settle** them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since **he did not have the means to repay**, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made."* (Matthew 18:24-25)

Our sin is represented by an **unpayable debt**.

- "A talent was worth more than fifteen years' wages of a laborer." (Footnote in the NASU)
- "The servant's **ten thousand talents** was at least 60,000,000 days' wages." (Pope, *Matthew*, Truth Commentaries, Page 589)

The point is, the debt of our sin is unpayable by anyone!

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

*"So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' And the lord of that slave **felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.**"* (Matthew 18:26-27)

The slave exemplified great humility and homage. (Revelation 1:17; cf. Luke 5:8)

Is this how we approach our heavenly Father about our need for forgiveness?

Our worship and reverence should ultimately be based on Jesus' holiness and righteousness and not what we seek to gain from Him. (Philippians 2:9-10; Matthew 20:20)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

"Have patience with me" - makrothumeo -

"to be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be long-suffering" (Thayer)
"I will repay you everything" - in actuality he could not, nor can we. (Psalms 49:6-8)

*"the lord ... **felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.**"* (Matthew 6:12)

- He was "**loosed**" (KJV) from his bondage and forgiven (Psalms 32:1; Romans 4:7) the entire debt.
 - Not just caught up, the entire debt was forgiven. Only the blood of Jesus could pay the price. (1 Peter 1:17-19)
- How do we contact His blood? (Romans 6:3-4)
 What we owe is to offer our lives in service to Him who forgave our debt. (Luke 15:21; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Romans 12:1-2)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

*"But that slave went out and found one of his **fellow slaves** who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, '**Have patience with me and I will repay you.**' But he was **unwilling** and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. **So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened**, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened."* (Matthew 18:28-31)

"Fellow slave" - "servant of the same master" (Thayer) (Colossians 4:7) - who asked for the same thing!

"He was unwilling ..."

The question is are we "**willing**" to forgive?

The hypocrisy of **seeking** what we're not "**willing**" to give.

Our sin will indeed "**find you out**" (Numbers 32:23)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

*"Then summoning him, his lord said to him, '**You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?**' And his lord, **moved with anger**, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. (So; ASV, ESV) My heavenly Father will also do **the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.**"* (Matthew 18:32-35)

"Wicked slave ..." - because of what he didn't do!

(Bad fruit! Matthew 7:17-18; 12:34-35; Hebrews 3:12)

"Until he should repay all that was owed him ..." How long would that take?

"In the same way ..." (Matthew 7:12; Ephesians 4:31-32)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

"Mercy" precedes forgiveness.

- "Manifestation of pity ... **actively compassionate**" (Vine).

What else **precedes forgiveness**? (Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-14)

"Moved with anger ..." - Such unforgiveness and lack of mercy makes God angry! Means to "become **exasperated**" (Strong).

This parable not only teaches of our duty but what God will do to **the one who is unwilling to forgive**.

The duration of the punishment was to last as long as it took for the servant to **"repay all that was owed."**

It was already established in verse 25 that he did not have the means to repay and thus an indication of the eternal nature of God's punishment.

"If each of you ..." - everyone who has been forgiven of God.

"... from your heart." It's more than just words!