

LESSON 12
 THE TRANSFIGURATION
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Forgiveness
 Matthew 18:15-35

SIN AND FORGIVENESS
 MATTHEW 18:15-35

Psalms 86:5, *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.”* (Nehemiah 9:17; ESV, ASV, and NJKV)

- The father was ready to forgive his son in the parable in Luke 15:20-22.
- Jesus was ready to forgive those who persecuted and crucified Him! (Luke 23:34; cf. Acts 7)
- How do we become **“ready to forgive”**?
 - Become like a child and have a heart of humility. (Colossians 3:12-13; Matthew 18:4)
 - Remember what we have been forgiven of! (1 Timothy 1:12)
 - Put away vengeance. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; Romans 12:16-17)
 - Learn what love is. (1 Corinthians 13)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS
 MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” (Matthew 18:22)

Peter asked about a “reasonable” amount of forgiveness to be given.

Jesus responds with an “unreasonable” amount of forgiveness. (1 Kings 12:28)

“Seventy times seven” - without limit.

We need a heart that’s ready for unlimited forgiveness.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS
 MATTHEW 18:15-35

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.” (Matthew 18:23)

Key point: the kingdom or the church is comprised of forgiven people who must forgive others.

A king **“who wished to settle accounts (take account; KJV).”** A reckoning: (cf. Matthew 25:19)

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, Truth commentary)

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. (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)