

A Kingdom of Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

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Matthew 1:1, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:"

Main Idea: Every Kingdom Citizen Must Greatly Forgive his Brother From the Heart, Having Been All the More Greatly Forgiven by Their King.

1.) The Question: How Many Times Do I Have To Forgive my Brother in Christ? (V21-22)

v21, "Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' **22** Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'"

2.) Answering the Questioner: Every Kingdom Citizen Has Been Forgiven an Unpayable Debt by the King. (V23-27)

Matthew 18:23-27, "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24** And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. **26** "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' **27** Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt."

Ephesians 1:7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

I Peter 1:18-21, "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, [like] silver or gold, from your aimless conduct [received] by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. **20** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you **21** who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Luke 6:40, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

3.) Answering the Question: Therefore, Each Must Abundantly Forgive his Brother's Debts From the Heart. (V2, 28-35)

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' **29** "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' **30** "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

32 "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. **33** **Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?** **34** "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

—**Matthew Henry**, "Note, It does not look well for us to keep count of the offences done against us by our brethren. There is something of ill-nature in scoring up the injuries we forgive, as if we would allow ourselves to be revenged when the measure is full. God keeps an account (Deu. 32:34), because he is the Judge, and vengeance is his; but we must not, lest we be found stepping into his throne. It is necessary to the preservation of peace, both within and without, to pass by injuries, without reckoning how often; to forgive, and forget. God multiplies his pardons, and so should we, Ps. 78:38, 40. It intimates that we should make it our constant practice to forgive injuries, and should accustom ourselves to it till it becomes habitual."¹

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly** equipped for **every good work**."

¹ Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1707.

Matthew 18:35, "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

—**J. C. Ryle**, "The rule here laid down must of course be interpreted with sober-minded qualification. Our Lord does not mean that offenses against the law of the land and the good order of society are to be passed over in silence. He does not mean that we are to allow people to commit thefts and assaults with impunity. All that He means is that we are to exercise a general spirit of mercy and forgiveness towards our brethren. We are to bear much and to put up with much, rather than quarrel. We are to look over much and submit to much, rather than have any strife. We are to lay aside everything like malice, strife, revenge, and retaliation. Such feelings are only fit for heathen. They are utterly unworthy of a disciple of Christ."²

Romans 13:8, "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

² Ryle, J. C.. Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Matthew [Updated Edition]: A Commentary (pp. 199-200). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.