

## **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.**