

Forgive Us Our Sins, 'Just As'...

Teach Us To Pray – week seven

And forgive us our sins, *just as* we have forgiven those who sinned against us. – Mt 6:12

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. *But if you refuse* to forgive others, your Father *will not* forgive your sins. Mt 6:14,15

What question did Peter have for Jesus in Matthew 18?

What answer did Peter already have ready? 7 times. What did Jesus say was the right answer? 70 times 7

What was he teaching by that answer? That the way of The Kingdom is unlimited forgiveness

I am open to what God wants to teach me today. I will not allow any wall or attitude to keep me from hearing God. agree/disagree

Matthew 18:21-35

Act One

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. - Mt 18:23-25

How much did this guy owe in today's ? 17.3 billion dollars.

The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.
- Mt 18:26,27

The old way was – “**You owe, You pay**”

The new way (the economy of grace) is – “**You owe, I'll pay**”

Act Two

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. – Mt 18:28-30

Act Three

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. – Mt 18:31-35

What Forgiveness is not...

- It is not a sign of weakness
- It is not conditional
- It does not mean we excuse wrong behavior
- It is not minimizing the seriousness of the offense
- It does not mean we allow wrong behavior to go un-confronted
- It does not mean we resume a relationship without change

Stages Of Forgiveness...

- I refuse to get even or to hurt you back
- I see the person that is beyond my hurt
- I want to see good things happen to them

The Final and On Going Act...

Is where we embrace and 'Live Out' the new way (the way of grace) of The Kingdom.

Who does THE KING want 'you' to forgive? Will you? (yes/no)

Talking Points

1. In Luke chapter 15 Jesus tells another story about 'the way of forgiveness' that permeates The Kingdom of God. Read Luke 15:11-32. What do you see in these verses that underscores The Father's passion to forgive the sins of His people? What encouragement do you find in this story told by Jesus 2000 years ago?
2. Imagine that you are one of the characters in the story Jesus told in Matthew 18. and that you have been asked to give your perspective on the events that unfolded.
 - The King
 - The servant who was forgiven the huge debt
 - The other servants who stood at a distance and watched the drama unfold
3. What kind of hurts are the hardest for people to forgive? Why do you think they are so hard to let go of?
4. What are the effects on people when they hang on to resentment and withhold forgiveness?