

The Importance of Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35)

Praying with Jesus – Part 5
Life Church St. Louis – February 9, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

1. God has great _____ for you

Matthew 18:23 (NIV) "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

1A. You owe God an _____ debt

Matthew 18:24-25 (NIV) 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.

1B. God grants _____ if you ask

Matthew 18:26-27 (NIV) "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.

2. Understand the foolishness of _____

2A. The debt others owe you is very _____

Matthew 18:28 (NIV) "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.

2B. Unforgiveness _____ you haven't received forgiveness

Matthew 18:29-31 (NIV) "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. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

3. Forgiveness is _____ of you

3A. You must forgive as you've _____

Matthew 18:32-33 (NIV) "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?'

3B. Those without mercy will be eternally _____

Matthew 18:34-35 (NIV) 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."

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Study Guide

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Intro. When do you think it's hardest to forgive? What happens in your heart when you don't forgive someone?

In your own words, describe what the petition in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:12 means.

How does Matthew 6:14-15 clarify the meaning of Matthew 6:12?

What did Jesus' answer to Peter regarding forgiveness mean (Genesis 4:23-24)?

1A. How does the first servant's enormous debt relate to our debt to God (Matthew 18:23-25)?

1B. What does the response of the master to the servant's plea tell us about God (Matthew 18:26-27)?

1C. How do people tend to minimize their own debt to God by comparing themselves to others?

2A. What is the significance of the second servant's smaller debt, compared to the first servant's debt (Matthew 18:28)?

2B. What does the unforgiveness of the second servant tell us about his heart (Matthew 18:29-31)?

2C. What does Jesus' death on the cross for your sin tell you about the magnitude of your debt?

3A. What had the master expected of the first servant (Matthew 18:32-33)?

3B. What will the Father do to those who do not forgive others (Matthew 18:34-35)?

3C. In what ways is your forgiveness by God conditional on your forgiving others?

3D. How could you help someone else who is having difficulty forgiving another person?

3E. If you're having difficulty forgiving someone, describe the situation, so others can pray for you.