

“Forgiving As We’ve Been Forgiven” **Mtt. 18:21-35**

What prompts this troubling parable? Sinning saints, forgiveness, and church discipline cause Peter to pop a practical question (21).

Compassionate king pardons an outrageously indebted slave (23-27).

- *Debt = 10,000 talents (60-80 lbs of precious metal, eg., gold, silver, etc.)
 - 1 talent = 6000 denarii
 - 1 denarii a day for day laborers so we’re talking . . .
 - Clearly these are hyperbolic proportions that can’t ever be paid back (slavery for whole family wouldn’t get one talent!)
 - Plea = *Patience, time to pay off debt*, yet no chance at all of this!

Cold-hearted slave amazingly fails to pardon a less indebted slave (28-31).

- *Debt = 100 denarii is only 1 / 600,000 as much as he was forgiven!
 - 100 denarii is still nearly 1/3 of yearly salary (note slaves w/\$)
 - Punishment = choking / debtors’ prison is worse than slavery.
 - Plea = *Patience, time to pay off debt* = same exact plea but. . .

Condemning king reinstates punishment to once-pardoned slave (32-25).

- *Forgiven debt is reaffirmed and punishment even worse fate (34)!
- *Is this slave. . . an unbeliever who can’t forgive?

a believer who loses salvation → hell?

a believer who loses forgiveness → problems?

*NT principle that relates divine forgiveness with our daily forgiveness:
Mtt. 6:1,14,15, 7:1,2, Mk. 11:25,26, Lk 6:36-38, Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13

- *How costly can our failure to forgive be? Just what kind of “torture” is in mind here?