

DEBTS & DEBTORS

MATTHEW 18:21-35

He who grows in grace remembers that he is but dust, and he therefore does not expect his fellow Christians to be anything more. He overlooks ten thousand of their faults, because he knows that God overlooks twenty thousand in his own case. He does not expect perfection in the creature, and, therefore, is not disappointed when he does not find it.

-Charles Spurgeon

I. The Picture of Forgiveness

II. The Practice of Forgiveness

Getting to know you:

1. How old were you when you finished paying off your student loans (if you had them)?

Into the Bible:

2. It seems clear from the passage we are reading in Matthew that Peter was asking for some “legal” limit to forgiveness. When Jesus responds however, the total 70x7 is not meant to extend a numerical answer to Peter’s question, but one that emphasizes the wrongness of trying to set a limit on our forgiveness. How does Jesus’ description of his approach to the Law and the Kingdom in Matthew 5:17-20 apply also to us and forgiveness?

3. In the parable the king does not just decide to forget about the debt owed him by his servant. He cancels the debt—essentially paying it himself. When God forgives us of our sin he also “pays Himself”. How do these verses describe that process? (Mark 10:45, I Corinthians 6:20, Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 1:18-19)

Into the Bible:

4. Given the price that has been paid for our forgiveness, what should our response be to God and to those who need our forgiveness?
(Luke 7:36-47)

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about why we need God’s forgiveness.